Demapan: General fund incurs $68.1M deficit. PAGE 2
$5K bail imposed on man accused of assaulting girlfriend over spilled food. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

$1 Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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Senate, House cap government projected resources at $163.4M

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attao

Manglona

» Senate panel adopts version of budget bill

The full Senate and House of Representatives unanimously adopted yesterday the bicameral conference committee's report setting the ceiling of the CNMI government's projected resources for the government's operations for fiscal year 2024 at $163.4 million.

As this developed, the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee adopted yesterday afternoon

See SENATE on Page 4

Mother Nature, touchback delay Beach Road, Garapan Revitalization projects

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
chrystal_marino@saipantribune.com
CORRESPONDENT

Project updates and the possibility of further delays on the Beach Road Improvement and Garapan Revitalization Projects were discussed at the Saipan Chamber and Commerce's September general membership meeting last Wednesday at the Kensington Resort in San Roque.

See MOTHER on Page 4

CHRYSTAL MARINO
Department of Public Works Secretary Ray Yumul, right, and DPW Highway engineer Henry Bautista shares construction updates and challenges at the Saipan Chamber of Commerce September General Meeting last Wednesday at Kensington Resort San Roque.

SMA: Increase in landing fees caused airfare increase

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Star Marianas Airlines Inc. has recently announced that it will be increasing its ticket prices and according to the airline, the Commonwealth Ports Authority's recent increase in rates is to blame.

Last Tuesday, SMA sent out an announcement informing members of the CNMI community that effective Oct. 1, they will be implementing

See SMA on Page 4

OAG opposes Torres' motion for dismissal

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General, through special prosecutor James Robert Kingman, has filed a motion with the Superior Court in opposition of former governor Ralph DLG Torres' motion to dismiss the suit on grounds of unauthorized practice of law.

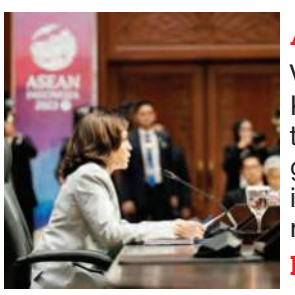
Yesterday, Kingman filed an opposition to Torres and his defense team's motion to dismiss the pending criminal suit

See OAG on Page 4

'TOUCHBACK' COUNTDOWN
Number of days left until the "touchback" rule takes effect on Sept. 30, 2023:
22

INSIDE

BUSINESS
Saipan's legendary and premiere Italian dining venue is back at Hyatt Regency Saipan.
PAGE 15



ASIA
Vice President Kamala paid tribute to ASEAN, despite growing doubts about its effectiveness for regional diplomacy.
PAGE 16

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY
A newly discovered comet is swinging through our cosmic neighborhood for the first time in more than 400 years.
PAGE 18

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Local

Demapan: General fund incurs $68.1M deficit

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

For the three quarters of fiscal year 2023, the CNMI government's general fund has incurred a deficit of $68.1 million, with the Department of Finance exceeding its budget by approximately $22 million and Office of the Governor by $3.4 million, according to Legislative Bureau fiscal analyst Dave Demapan yesterday.

Asked for comments, Gov. Arnold I. Palacios said he wants to verify this with Finance Secretary Tracy N. Norita first and that they will get back today, Friday.

Norita said she wants to see Demapan's analysis.

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) asked Demapan at yesterday's Senate session to provide his analysis and overview of the third quarter reports submitted by Finance Secretary Tracy B. Norita to the Legislature.

Demapan said based on his review of Norita's report for the nine months, for the first quarter ended Dec. 31, 2022 the deficit was $7.9 million, for the second quarter ended March 31, 2023 it was $6.9 million, and then for the last quarter that ended June 30, 2023 the deficit was reported at $53.3 million.

"So, the accumulative deficit for the nine months ended for fiscal year 2023 is at $68.2 million," the fiscal analyst said.

He said by looking at the revenue estimates compared to the actual collections, the revenue estimates are off target by $13.2 million.

"In other words, the revenue collection is under collected by that amount, $30.2 million, or approximately 11%," Demapan said.

The fiscal analyst said regarding earmarks, the administration is on line with expenditures, or they are in line with the budget.

"They're below the budget by $2.9 million. So, they're okay with that," he said.

Demapan said, however, getting into the appropriated expenditures, the administration exceeded the budget by approximately $57.9 million or approximately 66% from the appropriated expenditures

See DEMAPAN on Page 4

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$5K bail imposed on man accused of assaulting girlfriend over spilled food

The Superior Court has imposed a $5,000 cash bail on a man accused of assaulting his girlfriend following a fight involving spilled food.

During a bail hearing last Wednesday, Superior Court Associate Judge Wesley Bogdan imposed a $5,000 cash bail on Iokapus Diopulos, a man accused of assaulting his girlfriend after she dumped their food down the sink.

Diopulos, 44, is facing charges of assault, assault and battery, vandalism, and disturbing the peace.

After his bail hearing, Diopulos was remanded back to Department of Corrections' custody and was ordered to return to court for his arraignment on Sept. 18 at 9am.

According to Court documents, Diopulos told police that he had just cooked food for his family when he told his girlfriend that he wanted to go to his cousin's house.

When he told her this, Diopulos said his girlfriend got mad and dumped the food he had just cooked in the sink.

This caused Diopulos to get mad so he continuously slammed the pan he used to cook the food on the sink until it broke.

He added that he tried to leave but his girlfriend held him back.

Sometime during the altercation, Diopulos said his girlfriend fell on a nearby futon but he does not remember hitting her. He did tell police he might have while he was trying to leave.

Diopulos said when he was able to get away from his girlfriend, he threw his bag off the balcony of their residence and while he was headed back to get the rest of his things, his girlfriend locked him out.

The defendant alleges that he knocked on the glass door so hard it shattered.

Diopulos' girlfriend also gave the police a statement.

She claims that during the altercation, Diopulos pushed her onto a nearby futon and punched her in the back of her head causing her to feel dizzy.

She said Diopulos also slammed a nearby highchair on the ground causing it to break and allegedly threatened to hit her with it.

She told police that Diopulos started to throw his things out so she ran to the door and locked it.

The woman said after locking the door, Diopulos kept punching it causing the glass to shatter so she called Police for assistance. ***(Kimberly B. Esmores)***

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SENATE

From page 1

their version of the fiscal year 2024. The budget legislation, House Bill 23-66, House Substitute 1, Senate Substitute 1, is expected to be passed by the full Senate during their next session.

With all seven Senate members and 16 House members present voting "yes" at separate sessions, both houses adopted House Concurrent Resolution 23-2, Senate Substitute 1, Conference Committee Substitute 1.

Sens. Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) and Dennis James C. Mendiola (R-Tinian) were absent but excused from the Senate session.

Reps. Roy Christopher A. Ada (R-Saipan), Joseph A. Flores (Ind-Saipan), John Paul P. Sablan (Ind-Saipan), and Thomas John DLC. Manglona (R-Saipan) were absent but excused from the House session.

Before the voting, Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Saipan), who served as chairman of the Senate conference committee, and Rep. Blas Jonathan T. Attao (Ind-Saipan), who served as vice chairman of the House conference committee, explained what changes were made by the committee in the original concurrent resolution and their agreements during their deliberations that lasted for several days.

Manglona said the actions that the committee to address the Business Gross Revenue Tax (BGRT) increase proposal that was in the administration's budget submission, they ended up reducing the total projected resources from $172 million down to $163 million.

Manglona said in doing so, they had to suspend several earmarks with the exception of the Marianas Visitors Authority.

"That was agreed upon by the committee because in order for our economy to improve and to increase tourism, MVA, which is currently our only industry supporting our operations, these funds are needed to further market the CNMI," he said.

Manglona said in keeping MVA whole and suspending all other earmarks, this resulted in a reduction of net available by a little over $1 million, which has been addressed by the Senate Fiscal Affairs Committee in the budget deliberation.

Attao said they rejected the Senate version of the concurrent resolution that brings to $115 million in net local revenue and resources available for appropriations pursuant to the understanding that they (Senate) removed the $9 million from the top number basing themselves that that's part of the BGRT increase that the administration proposed in the budget submission.

"The House…we're against it because they did not take away the BGR levels in the bottom number. They were insistent that the numbers from the top would suffice to the bottom number," Attao said.

He said, they, however came to an understanding with the Senate committee that should they get to the budget bill itself, that if they left the number at $115 million, the budget will implode to $124 million because they're suspending the earmarks.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

SMA

From page 1

new fares for all their flights.

Based on the announcement. starting Oct. 1, Star Marianas will increase its Saipan-Tinian fare from $65 to $85.

For Saipan-Rota, tickets will increase from $130 to $175 for those who opt for assisted booking, while online booking will increase from $120 to $165.

As for SMA's Rota-Guam flights, assisted booking tickets will increase from $140 to $200, while tickets booked online will increase from $140 to $190.

According to a statement from SMA president Shaun Christian, the implemented increase in fare prices is a direct result of CPA's decision increase its fees and rates come FY 2024.

"This exorbitant increase places an unjust burden on both airlines and passengers, driving up airfare prices and making travel to and within the CNMI significantly more expensive. One of the most concerning aspects of this unilateral decision by the CPA is the absence of cost controls on the organization's expenditures," he said.

"It is imperative that the CPA reevaluates its decision and works collaboratively with the airline industry to establish a fair and sustainable pricing structure that benefits all stakeholders. The future of air travel to the CNMI depends on it," Christian added.

Meanwhile, in a statement from CPA board chair Kimberlyn King-Hinds, she said for SMA to blame CPA for its need to increase fare prices, they must first have to be making their aviation payments to CPA.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

OAG

From page 1

against him or, alternatively, disqualify Kingman from prosecuting the case.

According to Kingman's opposition, Torres' motion should be denied because it lacks any basis in fact or law.

Kingman argues in his motion that dismissal with prejudice is an absurd proposed remedy as it is not based in law.

"Dismissal with prejudice is a disfavored and harsh remedy. It should be imposed only in extreme circumstances. Dismissal with prejudice should be used sparingly, for in dismissing an indictment with prejudice, the court allows its interest in the orderly administration of justice to override the interests of victims and the public interest in the enforcement of the criminal law," he said.

As for Torres' request, as an alternative, to disqualify the OAG from prosecuting his case, Kingman argues that there is no other prosecuting authority to refer to if the OAG is disqualified.

"The defense argues that after it finds that Kingman committed hundreds of crimes, the court should rule that the case be dismissed with prejudice. Alternately, the disqualification of the OAG from this case and any other case or charge against Torres arising from the same temporal period and/or facts and circumstances as this case. The OAG is the prosecuting authority for violations of Commonwealth law. There is no neighboring county. There is no separate statewide prosecuting authority to refer the case to. Defendant is again asking for immunity," he said.

Kingman also addressed allegations that he committed crimes related to the release of Torres' bank information and whether or not he is unauthorized to practice law in the CNMI because he did not take an oath.

To this, Kingman argues that the allegations lack any basis in fact or law.

According to a previous article on the *Saipan Tribune*, Torres wants the Superior Court to dismiss the criminal suit filed against him due to the alleged unauthorized practice of law on the part of special prosecutor Kingman.

As a possible alternative to disqualifying Kingman, Torres' defense team is asking the Superior Court to consider dismissing the former governor's criminal case altogether because the prosecution's alleged misconduct throughout the case has "incurably prejudiced" Torres.

The misconduct Torres' defense team is alluding to in its motion is Kingman's alleged failure to take the attorney oath authorizing him to practice law in the CNMI, and the misuse of subpoena powers that exposed Torres' bank account information.

Superior Court judge pro temp Arthur Barcinas, who is presiding over the case, is set to hear Torres' motion to dismiss on Sept. 11, at 10am.

MOTHER

From page 1

Citing Mother Nature's recent bipolar weather and the looming effects of the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' touchback rule as "main culprits" of delays on both projects these past month, end dates are on the verge of being slightly altered, if not already rescheduled.

Department of Public Works Secretary Ray Yumul and DPW Highway engineer Henry Bautista not only shared updates and plans on the second of four phases in the Beach Road Improvement Project, but also shared the project challenges they have been facing on the $19-million project.

Bautista and Yumul shared that alongside the poor weather, underground utilities not reflected in the construction drawing have become another challenge.

They also noted that recently two sites have unearthed some ancient human bones and will bring excavation work to a crawl as they carefully dig, while being monitored by an archeologist. With power poles being affected due to drainage improvement and traffic, contractors are also working with business establishments on timing for excavation so as not to block the establishment.

Mariano Iglecias, the senior civil engineer from the Office of Planning and Development, also shared that while completing tests and sub-base and base course material placement within the area of Paseo De Marianas, he realized that they need to work with DPW on other ongoing projects in the area.

Iglecias said while the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. does sewer line replacements in the north and southside as well as some other Beach Road improvements, they're also working with DPW on those projects.

"So, a lot of coordination and a lot of moving parts we're trying to make sure nobody's stepping on anyone's toes... so we're trying to make sure everyone has a good flow of the area."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

DEMAPAN

From page 2

of $87.1 million.

The fiscal analyst said by looking at the collection and the expenditures overall, they can predict that by the end of fiscal year 2023, the deficit may go up to approximately $77 million based on Norita's numbers that he reviewed.

Demapan said the major contributing factors for all of these deficits come from one—the Department of Finance, which exceeded its budget by approximately $22 million for the first three quarters.

He said the Office of the Governor exceeded its budget by $3.4 million and the Department of Public Safety exceeded its budget by $2.2 million.

"And there is a big item here called Disaster Expenditures that is not budgeted. So, it exceeded the budget by approximately $14.5 million," Demapan said.

Norita denied there is a $68-million deficit in the general fund in a late-night message to Saipan Tribune.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM, OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP23-GOV-42300099

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST OCTOBER 6, 2023

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM REPLACEMENT SUSUPE, SAIPAN

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the **Department of Corrections Surveillance System Replacement** in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be made available digitally at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan and online at Vendor Self Service (selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/VBids) beginning **Friday, September 8, 2023. A pre-proposal meeting regarding this project will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 9:00 a.m. ChST, at the Department of Corrections.**

Questions regarding this RFP may be sumitted via email to Ms. Nerissa B. Karakaya at nerissa.benavente@gov.mp no later than **4:00 PM ChST, Wednesday, September 27, 2023**. All Questions & Answers will be shared with all prospective proposers.

Proposers located outside of the CNMI must fill out and submit the Notice of Intent Form to the Acting Director of Procurement Services no later than **10:00 AM ChST, Friday, October 6, 2023.**

Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria: (1) Qualifications and experience on similar projects – 30%; (2) Past performance with CNMI projects – 30%; and (3) Cost – 40%.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS, AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

/S/ Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas Jr., Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP23-GOV-42300097

SUBMISSION DATE: 10:00 AM ChST OCTOBER 6, 2023

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS HVAC REPLACEMENT SUSUPE, SAIPAN

Governor Arnold I. Palacios and Lt. Governor David M. Apatang, through the Capital Improvement Program (CIP), (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified contractors for the **Department of Corrections HVAC Replacement** in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be made available digitally at the Governor's CIP Office, Juan A. Sablan Administration Building in Capitol Hill, Saipan and online at Vendor Self Service (selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/Vendors/VBids) beginning **Friday, September 8, 2023. A pre-proposal meeting regarding this project will be held on Thursday, September 21, 2023 at 10:00 a.m. ChST, at the Department of Corrections.**

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/S/ Arnold I. Palacios
Governor, CNMI

/S/ Brien S. Nicholas Jr., Acting Director
CNMI Procurement Services

Bill filed to impose tax increase from construction activities

Rep. Ralph N. Yumul (Ind-Saipan) introduced yesterday a bill that seeks to impose an additional 3% tax to the yearly gross revenue that is directly derived from construction activities in excess of $250,000 for a period of three years.

At the House of Representatives session, Yumul noted that this additional tax does not apply to construction of residential homes.

In recent years, numerous construction projects have taken place in the CNMI.

Several other representatives co-sponsored the legislation, House Bill 23-74.

House of Representatives Speaker Edmund S. Villagomez (Ind-Saipan) referred the legislation to Ways and Means Committee chaired by Yumul.

Yumul stated in the legislation that licensed construction contractors are currently paying a tax rate between 2.5% and 5% as set forth in the Commonwealth Code.

He acknowledged that an additional tax may increase the costs of construction for commercial projects and possibly residential projects as contractors attempt to pass on the increased costs to consumers.

Yumul said they are also aware that general contractors often hire subcontractors on commercial projects.

He said relevant to this bill, there are legitimate issues with respect to double taxation.

The lawmaker said there is also a valid concern that this legislation may increase the final costs that are charged to consumers.

He said these concerns, raised by the Department of Finance and the Office of the Attorney General that call to attention to these potential adverse impacts, are valid.

Yumul said with respect to tax impacts and other considerations, they find that there will never be a good time to raise taxes.

He said this proposed 3% tax increase is inapplicable to the construction contractor as a corporate entity or taxpayer per se.

Yumul said the tax increase is however applicable to the revenue that is directly derived from construction activities that are over the $250,000 threshold.

He said in addition, in order to mitigate any adverse effects on the end prices that may be passed along to the consumers, this bill provides a non-refundable tax credit that shall be available for new taxes imposed pursuant to this legislation.

The lawmaker also underscored the need to establish a Sunset Clause in the bill for a period of three years to lessen the financial burden imposed by such additional tax. ***(Ferdie De La Torre)***

DIVISION OF COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

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NOTICE OF APPLICATION

As of September 8, 2023

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE DCRM OFFICE:

	APPLICANT	DATE APPLICATION RECEIVED	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1.	U.S.A. Fanter Corporation, Ltd.	07/21/2023 SPI-2023-079	Staging & Stockpiling	Puerto Rico, Saipan	Ports & Industrial	STOP CLOCK* 07/28/023
2.	CNMI United Investment Corporation, Ltd.	08/04/2023 SMS-2023-085	Retaining Wall and Shoreline Revetment Project	Garapan, Saipan	Major Siting	Public Hearing* 09/12/2023
3.	Department of Public Works (DPW)	8/21/2023 SSm-2023-090	Flores Rosa St Road & Drainage Improvement Project	Garapan, Saipan	Shoreline	Approved* 8/28/2023
4	Tinian Marine Stevedore, Inc.	8/23/2023 TPI-2023-003	Grading of Parking Lot, Installation of 30 ft Rolling Gate	San Jose, Tinian	Ports & Industrial	Approved* 09/05/2023
5.	J & K Marine Sports, Inc. dba J & K Marine Sports	8/24/2023 SLR-2023-092	Commercial Banana Boat & Wakeboard Operations (Towed Flotation) and Snorkeling Activites	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 8/25/2023 Approved* 8/28/2023
6.	J & K Marine Sports, Inc. dba J & K Marine Sports	8/24/2023 SLR-2023-093	Commercial Water Jetcraft & Jetovator Operations	All Designated Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 8/25/2023 Approved* 8/28/2023
7.	Blue & Blue, LLC. dba B&B Tour	8/24/2023 SLR-2023-094	Commercial Snorkeling Activities	All Designated Swim Zones, Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 8/28/2023 Approved* 8/29/2023
8.	J&Y Corporation	9/5/2023 SLR-2023-095	Commercial Snorkeling Activites	All Designated Swim Saipan	Lagoon & Reef	Certified Complete* 9/5/2023 Approved* 9/7/2023
9.	Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA)	8/29/2023 TPIm-2023-004	Tinian Commercial Port Sign	San Jose, Tinian	Ports & Industrial	Under Review*
10.	The Palette, Inc.	9/5/2023 SMS-2023-096	Capitol Hill Wonderland	Capital Hill, Saipan	Major Siting	Under Review*

NMIAC §15-10-210 of the CRM Rules and Regulations requires all permit applications to be published in a newspaper for general circulation within the CNMI within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the DCRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the DCRM Office within fourteen (14) days for minor permits (APCs) and proposed amended major sitings. Public Hearings are required for all new major siting projects. All public hearing notices are published in a local newspaper of general circulation. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local DCRM Coordinator. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a DCRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the DCRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the DCRM permit decision as provided in Part 200 § 15-10-235 of the DCRM Regulations.

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SEPT 1
Adult Health Check
Update on personal medical history, blood pressure check, glucose check, resources & referrals
Nutrition Assistance Program , As Lito from 8:00AM - 11:30AM

SEPT 8 21
Child Health Check
For children 0-17 years old. Measurements and growth, anticipatory guidance, resources & referrals
Lucky De Market, Dan Dan from 1:00PM - 4:30PM
New Dolphin Market, San Jose from 1:00PM - 4:30PM

SEPT 6 15
Women's Health Check
For women who haven't seen a healthcare provider longer than 1 year, pap smears, breast exams, pre/post partum care, resources & referrals
CGC Systems of Care, San Antonio from 8:00AM - 11:30AM
Java Joes, Dan Dan from 8:00AM - 11:30AM

WHAT TO BRING:
INSURANCE CARD
(Medicaid and most private insurances accepted)
VALID PHOTO ID
(Driver's license, Passport, Mayor's ID, etc.)

SEPTEMBER IS NATIONAL SUICIDE PREVENTION AWARENESS MONTH

(670) 287-9926/9927/9929 www.chcc.health @cnmichcc

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 23-01
United States District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands

Court Services Coordinator

Permanent, Full-Time Position - Location: SAIPAN, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS (CNMI)
Starting grade: CL-24 step 1 to CL-26 Step 25, $46,435 to $70,603 (which includes 12.25 % COLA)
(Depending on qualifications and experience; promotion potential to CL-26 without further competition.)
(Ultimate pay potential CL 26 $71,192 - $91,787 by progressive performance and career salary progression.)
Opening Date: September 1, 2023 • Applications received by September 14, 2023 will be given priority.

Position Overview:
The Court Services Coordinator provides administrative support for Magistrate Judge court cases, compiles data and produces various reports, prepares travel cost estimates and payments, acts as Human Resources and staff development coordinator, researches and coordinates public outreach programs and conferences. Obtain the complete position description at https://www.nmid.uscourts.gov/employment This position includes full federal employment benefits, with paid leave, federal holidays, health insurance, life insurance, and federal retirement benefits.

Minimum Qualifications and Preferred Qualifications:
High school graduate or equivalent with at least one year general work experience plus one year of specialized work experience in finance, human resources, public relations, information technology, graphic arts, or court and legal administration. Education above the high school level may be substituted for one year of general work experience. Additional preference will be given for college degree. Applicants should demonstrate sound ethics and judgment, be able to communicate effectively (orally and in writing), and be skilled in word processing, spreadsheets, and be trainable in using automated systems.

Citizenship Requirement:
Applicants are required to be U.S. citizens or aliens who are authorized to work in the United States.

Notice to Applicants:
Excepted service appointments are "at will" and may be terminated by either the court or the employee at any time for any reason. Selectees may be subject to a background check or investigation and suitability determination; and may be subject to an updated background investigation every five years. Employees are subject to the Judicial Code of Conduct. Direct bank deposit of pay is required.

Application Procedure:
Cover Letter, Resume, and AO-78 application form are *required*. (Questions 18, 19, and 20 on page 5 of the AO-78 need not be answered.) AO-78 forms are at:
https://www.uscourts.gov/forms/human-resources-forms/application-judicial-branch-federal-employment
or may be picked up at the U.S. District Court. Please compile your Cover Letter, Resume, and your *signed* AO-78 application into one combined PDF document and email to: HR@nmid.uscourts.gov

Position is open until filled; applications received by September 14, 2023 will be given priority.

The United States District Court is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

FOA to hold auditions

The Friends of the Arts, Saipan's community theater, is holding auditions for the first productions in its youth theater program.

In late October, FOA will produce an extended one act production, and a short one act production performed and produced by middle school and high school students.

The audition and informational meeting date is Sept. 9 from 3pm to 5 pm and 1:30pm to 3pm Sept. 10, both at Marianas High School Room 102D.

FOA is also looking for adults who may wish to participate. ***(PR)***

JKPL parking lot closed Oct. 27, 28, 30, 31

In order to prepare for the Annual Community Trunk-o-Treat event, the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library's parking lot will be closed Oct. 27, 28, 30, and 31.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services LS-LS-252496-OLS-22 and LS-253665-OLS-23.

The Joeten-Kiyu Public Library is an equal opportunity provider and employer. ***(PR)***

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

MAIN OFFICE: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, 2ND FLOOR ARRIVAL BLDG.
PO BOX 501055•SAIPAN•MP•96950
PHONE: (1-670) 237-6500/1 • FAX: (1-670) 234-5962
WEBSITE: WWW.CNMIPORTS.COM

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR ARCHITECTURAL/ENGINEERING DESIGN SERVICES

FRANCISCO C. ADA/SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ARRIVAL TERMINAL RESTROOM DRAINAGE REPAIRS PROJECT NO. CPA-SA-001-23

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is a public corporation and autonomous agency of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). In accordance with its Procurement Rules and Regulations, CPA is soliciting statements of professional qualifications from interested Consultants for Architectural/Engineering (A/E) Design Services for the Arrival Terminal Restroom Drainage Repairs at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Saipan, CNMI, Project No. CPA-SA-001-23.

The project is being funded by CPA and is in accordance and compliance with CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations, Section 40-50-202, Architect-Engineer Design and Construction Management Services.

The Request for Qualification (RFQ) Package is available at CPA's Administration Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. No fee is required for obtaining the RFQ package. Electronic copies may be made available upon written request to Ms. Wendi Prater, CPA's Executive Assistant/Project Manager, at wprater@cnmiports.com or Ms. Sheri Llagas at receptionist@cnmiports.com.

Questions regarding this request for qualification statements must be submitted to Ms. Prater via email to wprater@cnmiports.com or hand delivered to the CPA Administration Office by no later than 5:00 p.m., Friday, September 1, 2023 CHST.

The statements of professional qualification will be evaluated based on the criteria available in the RFQ package.

Interested Consultants are requested to submit one (1) original, four (4) copies and one (1) electronic version in .pdf of their statements of professional qualifications by no later than **5:00 p.m., FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 (CHST).** Statements of qualification must be presented by a combination of both brochures and the use of current U.S. Government Standard Form 330.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualification for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date: August 8, 2023

marianas health
Providing Quality & Experienced Health Care Solutions

Marianas Health Services, Inc.

Job Opening: Home Health Aide

Job Summary: Provides personal care services under the direction of the Registered Nurse or Therapist. The Home Health Aide is assigned to specific clients by the Registered Nurse or other appropriate professional, performs services for clients as necessary to maintain their personal comfort and provides basic vital sign assessments to include blood pressure, BMI, glucose monitoring, safety education and assistance, etc.

Education: Successful completion of a formal certification training program and written skills test and competency evaluation. Valid State License Required.

Work Experience: Minimum of one (1) year work experience in a supervised setting, preferably in a health care facility.

To Apply: This job opportunity is for a full-time position. Interested applicants may submit their applications, resume, and/or other credentials at the Marianas Health Services Building, Ghiyeghi Street, San Jose, Saipan, CNMI Monday to Friday, 8:00 am to 5:00 pm. Applications may be sent via email to: recruitment@marianashealth.com. Only U.S. qualified workers will be considered.

Marianas Health Services is an Equal Employment Opportunity employer.

Chamber, ITS host Emotional Intelligence Training

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the afternoon session of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 3rd Quarter Professional Development Training centered around Emotional Intelligence (EI) pose for a group photo.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Participants of the morning session of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce 3rd Quarter Professional Development Training centered around Emotional Intelligence (EI) pose for a group photo.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is thrilled to announce the successful hosting of its 3rd Quarter Professional Development Training, centered around Emotional Intelligence (EI). In partnership with a proud chamber member, Island Training Solutions (ITS). The training was facilitated by Jim Arenovski, owner of ITS. The training took place last Tuesday, Aug. 29, 2023, in the ITS training room on the 6th floor, Suite 604 of the Marianas Business Plaza.

The core focus of this training was to enhance workplace relationships and employee satisfaction through the cultivation of Emotional Intelligence skills. Attendees delved into a range of important topics, including:

- Understanding how individual actions impact coworkers and customers
- Recognizing the influence of others' words and actions on personal emotions
- Building empathy and effective communication
- Cultivating self-motivation and leadership qualities
- Developing professional and social awareness

With the expert guidance of Arenovski, participants engaged in interactive sessions that emphasized practical insights and real-world applications of EI. The training not only provided valuable knowledge but also fostered meaningful discussions that underscored the role of EI in modern business settings.

The Chamber remains committed to empowering the community with essential skills for professional development. Stay tuned for the upcoming 4th Quarter Professional Development training in partnership with ITS slated for Nov. 7, 2023, more information will be forthcoming.

For more details about upcoming events/programs, please feel free to call (670) 234-7150 or email contactus@saipanchamber.org

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce is a non-profit organization committed to empowering enterprises as a resource, advocate, and connector for Saipan's private sector. Its mission is to create an island where businesses, families, and communities succeed together. For more information about the Chamber or to learn how to become a Chamber member, please visit the official website at www.saipanchamber.com, call 234-7150, or visit the 2nd Floor of the Marianas Business Plaza (Suite 201-A). ***(PR)***

Rodney S. Cabarles, Chairman · VACANT, Vice Chairman · Joanna C. Aldan, Secretary · VACANT, Treasurer · Megan C. Mendiola, Board Member

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

TINIAN MUNICIPAL SCHOLARSHIP BOARD

Municipality of Tinian and Augiguan

PO Box 520059 • San Jose Village • Tinian, MP 96952
Phone (670) 433-0504 • Fax (670) 433-1819
Email: tinianscholarship@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Tinian Municipal Scholarship Board hereby gives notice that there will be a Regular Board Meeting on Monday, September 11, 2023, at 5:30 p.m., at the DLNR Building (Scholarship Office), San Jose Village, Tinian.

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY
- A. Call to Order
- B. Roll Call
- C. Adoption of the Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes
  - (Regular Meeting)

II. PUBLIC COMMENTS*

III. OLD BUSINESS
- A.Continuation of Review & Approval of Fall 2023 Scholarship Applications

IV. NEW BUSINESS

V. MISCELLANEOUS

VI. EXECUTIVE SESSION

VII. ADJOURNMENT

/S/Rodney S. Cabarles
Chairman

[1] We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcome to submit written comments on the day of the meeting.
[2] Pursuant to 1 CMC section 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.
[3] Individuals with special needs requiring special accommodations, please contact the TMSB office at least 48 hours prior to schedule meeting for assistance.

Clinical Embryologist; Masters deg in Molecular Biology (may be foreign equiv). Perform all laboratory procedures associated with diagnostic & therapeutic treatment svcs including semen analysis, sperm preparation, oocyte & embryo handling, prep & cryopreservation for fertility clinic located in Saipan, CNMI. Perform lab audits & analysis of lab protocols & results.

Send resume to **Marianas Reproductive Institute, Inc.,**
P.O. Box 5640-CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950

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GUAM LOCATIONS:
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Agat
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Guam Premier Outlets
Micronesia Mall
Mobil Airport Road Service Station
Mobil Barrigada Heights Service Station
Mobil Mangilao Station
Mobil Yigo North Service Station
Mobil Ysengsong Service Station
Naval Hospital
NEX Mini Mart/Gas Station
SAIPAN LOCATIONS:
Chalan Piao
Gualo Rai

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153 receive vet care at SHS clinic; SHS here to stay

CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

Saipan Mayor's Dog Control Program staff Toshi Togawa assists in the spay/neuter clinic last month at the Saipan Office Mayor's Animal Shelter in As Perdido.

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

In an ongoing effort to provide veterinary care in the CNMI and reduce and maintain the animal population, the Saipan Humane Society, along with visiting veterinarian Dr. Mariah Coackley and the Saipan Mayor's Dog Control Program, spayed or neutered 153 cats and dogs from last Aug. 21 to 24 and from Aug. 28 to 31 at the Saipan Mayor's Office Animal Shelter in As Perdido.

Along with the sterilization surgeries, one animal had a leg amputated and another had a toe amputated.

SHS founder Lauren Cabrera also assures the public that with the closure of the other animal clinic—Saipan Cares for Animals—SHS is here to stay to continue to provide vet services.

Cabrera reiterated their commitment to the community and said, "We will not run out of meds, vaccines, supplies—and will also increase the quality of care by learning best practices from our awesome, mentoring veterinarians."

Coakley, Cabrera said, also spent her time providing sick and emergency care, and offering training opportunities to their staff—such as how to perform fecal examinations with their microscope, assisting with treatment plan development, and more.

Cabrera added that Coackley enjoyed her visit and will likely return next year.

As for future vet services, Cabrera said, "We plan to bring vets to the CNMI every few months on a regular basis. Dr. [Whitney] Collins is tentatively scheduled to return in October, and the focus of her visit will primarily be building up skills of our SHS and Dog Control teams, developing policies, and increasing our capacity to provide care when no vet is available," said Cabrera.

This month, SHS is also excited to offer Simparica Trio, thanks to a wonderful partnership with Banfield Foundation. While Bravecto only offers flea/tick protection, Simparica Trio offers protection against three major areas of concern—flea/ticks, heartworm, and intestinal worms.

Cabrera said, "This comprehensive approach is important here, given the extremely high prevalence of tick diseases such as ehrlichiosis and anaplasmosis, high incidence of heartworm, and widespread intestinal worms such as hookworm and roundworms."

She said while SHS still provides Bravecto, they encourage the community to transition over to Simparica Trio to offer higher levels of protection for their pet. "Heartworms can be a silent killer with devastating consequences," said Cabrera.

As always, SHS is grateful for the support of the community and especially the Saipan Mayor's Office for allowing use of their clinic space for their events.

Cabrera also gave a special shout out to their partners at the Saipan Mayor's Dog Control Program for Labor Day.

She said, "We are so grateful for this awesome team! They go above and beyond to accommodate us in their clinic space, and work together to run these big spay/neuter campaigns. We are grateful they see the importance of sustainable population management through spay/neuter."

"Words can never express how much we appreciate this awesome, hard-working team. We notice every little thing they do—from always offering to carry the heavy stuff, to staying on top of surgery prep, helping field our endless phone calls, working to get dogs adopted and openness to new ideas, sharing snacks and lots of laughs. You guys rock! We could not do what we are doing without you. Thank you Mayor [Ramon "RB" Camacho] and the Dog Control Team for supporting us!"

Interested volunteers can contacting info@saipanhumanesociety.org or @saipanhumanesociety on Instagram.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950 | Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
Website: www.cnmiports.com

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) is inviting qualified contractors to submit bid proposals and their qualifications for the Thomas Camacho Mendiola Commercial Seaport Commercial Marina Perimeter Fencing, Project No. CPA-RS-001-23, for the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bidders are to submit one original and two copies of their bid which shall be sealed in an envelope and marked on the cover package outside as follows: *"THOMAS CAMACHO MENDIOLA COMMERCIAL SEAPORT COMMERCIAL MARINA PERIMETER FENCING, CPA-SS-001-23"* and submitted no later than **2:00 P.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 08, 2023**, to the Office of the Executive Director, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read. Bidders are requested to minimize their company's attendees to ensure social distancing.

The Project, in general, consists of the Marina Perimeter Fencing including all associated work, all in accordance with the Plans and Specifications.

The Project is being financed by the Commonwealth Ports Authority. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within ninety (90) calendar days from the receipt of bids. CPA reserves the right to hold such bids in effect for one hundred eighty (180) calendar days from the date of bid opening.

A DVD containing the Contract Documents including plans, specifications and the bid schedule, may be obtained at the CPA Accounting Office, 2nd floor of the Departure Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, upon the payment of **ONE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS ($100.00)** for each set of plans and documents in electronic form (DVD). The payment is nonrefundable unless this notice to bidders is cancelled. Payment shall be made in cash, credit card, cashier's check or U.S. postal money order, made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. Bidders should notify CPA's point of contact mentioned below immediately if there are issues retrieving the files on the DVD and are to verify all information using the specification table of contents and the index of drawings.

A pre-bid conference will be held at Ports Manager's Confernce Room, located at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport on the island of Rota in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), at **10:00 A.M. (CHST), FRIDAY, AUGUST 25, 2023,** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. **Attendance is Mandatory.** A site visit will follow the pre-bid conference.

Questions should be submitted in writing to the CPA Executive Director's Office, 2nd floor of the Arrival Terminal at the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or emailed to Mr Alex C. Tudela, Procurement Officer at atudela@cnmiports.com with copy to Fermin R. Flores at ferminf@cnmiports.com at least ten (10) days prior to the bid opening date; with the exception of extension requests which have no deadline. Responses to all questions and requests for information will be provided to all bidders who purchased a DVD and attended the pre-bid conference.

Bidders shall use the bid schedule form furnished by the Commonwealth Ports Authority on the DVD. Each bidder must also supply all supplemental information required in the specifications.

The contract period for construction of the project in its entirety shall be **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days.** Liquidated damages in the amount of **ONE HUNDRED U.S. DOLLARS PER CALENDAR DAY ($100.00)** shall be assessed the Contractor for each calendar day that the completion of the Project is delayed beyond the contract completion date without approved excuse.

The apparent low bidder will be subject to a thorough and comprehensive review of its qualifications and Bid Documents to ensure that they are "responsive and responsible." This review will include, but is not necessarily limited to previous project experience, financial capabilities, quality of equipment and personnel, and bonding and insurance. If the apparent low bidder is found not to be "responsive or responsible", their bid will be rejected and the next lowest bidder will be evaluated for qualifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any or all bid proposals submitted for: (a) any of the reasons set forth in this Notice to Bidders; or (b) any of the reasons set forth in the CPA Procurement Rules and Regulations regarding bid rejection or cancellation; (c) any calculation error made in the bid schedule or mis-enter of the quantity of line item; or (d) sufficient justification exists that awarding the project contract would not be in the best interest of CPA. CPA further reserves the right to waive any defects in said bids if in its sole opinion to do so would be in CPA's best interest.

Each bid shall be accompanied by either a bid bond by a U.S. Treasury listed or CPA approved surety company, a certified check, or a cashier's check in the amount not less than ten percent (10%) of the bid price. Checks shall be made payable to the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

All mechanics and laborers for this procurement project shall be paid no less than the minimum wage rate established by the CNMI or the U.S. Secretary of Labor, whichever is higher. A copy of the Department of the Federal Labor Wage Rate Determination is included in Section GP 70-26 of the specifications. The bidder shall take into account minimum wage increases that may be imposed in the CNMI over the life of the Contract and include associated costs in the bid proposal. The EEO requirements, labor provisions, and wage rates are included in the specifications.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority, in accordance with the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (78 Stat. 252, 42 USC §§ 2000d to 2000d-4) and the Regulations, hereby notifies all bidders or offerors that it will affirmatively ensure that any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, disadvantaged business enterprises will be afforded full and fair opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, or national origin in consideration for an award.

By submitting a bid/proposal under this solicitation, the bidder or offeror certifies that neither it nor its principals are presently debarred or suspended by any Federal department or agency from participation in this transaction.

In addition to the above, all bidders shall comply with all local and Federal requirements under this procurement.

FOR THE COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY:

/s/ CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

Date:

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cnmiports.com

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT # 05-2023

Opening date: August 09, 2023 **Closing date: September 11, 2023**

Location: SAIPAN **SALARY: UNCLASSIFIED**

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

NATURE OF WORK

The Executive Director is the CPA chief executive officer, serving at the pleasure of the CPA Board of Directors and responsible for implementing the policies and decisions of the CPA Board of Directors. Statutory powers and duties of the Executive Director are listed in the Commonwealth Code at 2 CMC §2127.

Under the general direction of the CPA Board of Directors, the Executive Director is responsible for the planning, supervision, and coordination of the management, operation, and maintenance of all CNMI airports and seaports, as stated in the CPA statue and regulations. The Executive Director is in charge and control of the operation and maintenance of all CPA ports. The Executive Director is also in full charge and control of construction of all CPA ports, facilities, and other necessary or incidental works controlled by or required to be constructed or repaired by CPA. The Executive Director exercises independent judgment in finding solutions to situations or problems in which no clear precedents exist.

The Executive Director is to devote full time to the business of CPA. The Executive Director shall be on call at all times after normal working hours and on weekends and holidays. The Executive Director shall also make recommendations to the CPA Board of Directors on matters impacting airport and seaport management, maintenance, and operation, represent CPA at meetings and conferences and before community groups, service organizations, civic committees, and technical industry organizations with respect to airport and seaport matters, and perform related duties as required.

Employment Application must be accompanied with a copy of all required diploma/certificates and/or official sealed transcripts, original copy of recent police record not more than six (6) months old, original copy of U.S. Department of Defense Form DD214 for retired members or veterans of our Armed Forces, and other documents as required for the position. Public Law 11-70 requires that all male applicants age 18 to 25 years old must submit documentation evidencing his registration with the Federal Selective Service System. All applications and required documents must be submitted to the ***CPA Administration Office, 2nd Floor Arrival Building, Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport or CPA Administration Office, Tinian International Airport, or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport.*** Failure to provide any of the required documents will result in automatic disqualification. Certain vacancies may require written and/or physical test. Selected applicants will be subjected to pre-employment drug screening, 10-year Criminal History Record Check and 49 CFR Part 1542.209(d) Requirements. CPA reserves the right to waive or implement other qualifications to meet its needs. The deadline for submission of applications and required documents to the CPA Administration Office (Saipan) or at the Tinian International Airport or Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport is no later than **5:00 P.M. on Monday, September 11, 2023.**

Detailed information on qualifications and position descriptions for the above positions may be picked up along with the application form from Monday-Friday, 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M., except on holidays, at the CPA Administration Office (2nd Floor) of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport, Arrival Terminal or CPA Admin, Office at the Tinian International Airport or at the Benjamin Taisacan Manglona International Airport. For additional information, please contact the CPA Human Resources Office by email at lorna.robert@cnmiports.com and hrspecialist@cnmiports.com or by phone at (670)237-6500.

CPA is an Equal Opportunity Employer and CPA hires those who are legally entitled to employment in the CNMI.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
Executive Director

FROM RIDGE TO REEF

A Series of Articles Written by the 2023 DCRM Summer Interns

Issue No. 2 of 8

www.dcrm.gov.mp

Growing Coral and A Passion

FRANKLIN PANGELINAN

The CNMI is surrounded by an array of beautiful, vibrant coral reefs; they are a vital aspect in our islands because they provide a safe place for fish to live, protect our coastlines from damaging tides and erosion, and provide jobs and sustenance for local communities. As islanders, one of our main food sources comes from our ocean. Growing up, I liked to spear fish and wouldn't stop until I caught a fish. I didn't care if I missed and hit the coral. My mind was set on catching fish. But as I got older, I learned more about coral and its adaptability, functionality, and importance to our coastal and terrestrial areas. I grew a passion for our coral reefs and at a young age decided that I wanted to become a marine biologist.

Learning about this internship was a turning point for me. I was given the opportunity to be a part of the 2023 cohort. I can say with pride and joy that this summer I interned at the Division of Coastal Resources Management's (DCRM) Coral Restoration Program with the guidance of my mentor, Jordan Suel, Coral Restoration Technician.

My colleagues and I participated in various field days such as lagoon surveys, coral bleaching surveys, and coral restoration. A few of the projects I worked on include monitoring and gathering footage of algae growth in the coral nursery, documenting and inspecting growth from coral I fragmented, and uploading photos and videos of our field work onto social media.

"Coral reef restoration is not the same as forest restoration as its success is not always guaranteed because of insufficient knowledge of coral biology" (Omori). Our coral nursery is dominantly made up of the acropora species. Although the acropora species are more susceptible to bleaching, they are fast growing coral and are more resilient than others. On one of our trips to the nursery, I was able to fragment live coral and place them on two of the coral trees. This experience was like no other. Being able to do what most people might never get the chance to do is a privilege. This internship has taught me so much and I highly recommend anyone interested in the marine sciences to apply. I'm grateful for the opportunity to learn and participate in hands-on field work and online data analysis. This internship only encourages me more to pursue my dreams of becoming a marine biologist.

Makoto Omori (2019) Coral restoration research and technical developments: what we learned so far, Marine Biology Research, 15:7, 377-409, DOI: 10.1080/17451000.2019.1662050

"Well" Calculated Measures

PATRICK SANTOS, JR.

Did you know that practically all of Saipan's drinking water comes from the ground? According to the U.S. Department of Interior and U.S. Geological Survey Agency, groundwater is Saipan's "primary source of municipal water" and provides about "8-10 million gallons per day (Mgal/d) for the island's municipal water supply" (Mitchell et al., 2019). This groundwater is made accessible to Saipan residents through the use of wells that pump the water into the island's public water systems.

The Safe Drinking Water Program (SDWP) under the Bureau of Environmental & Coastal Quality's (BECQ) Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ), is responsible for the monitoring and observation of these wells. The department works closely with the government sector, private businesses, and with public water systems to ensure that the wells' operation and sanitation are maintained at a certain standard.

Throughout this internship, I had the pleasure of working with SDW Environmental Specialists Austin Flores, Glenn Arriola, Audrey Castro, and Loy Atalig, as well as my mentor, CDR Travis Spaeth, PE. As an intern, I was involved in the data collection and input of well water quality into the Direct Implementation Management Environment (DIME) database and conducted sanitary surveys.

Sanitary surveys are water system inspections that go over all system components, including wells, to determine whether its systems are maintained and operated properly. The inspection ensures system component work, water treatment is adequate, and is protected from any possible areas of contamination of the well's water quality.

Most importantly, I was tasked to use the collected information from these monitoring events into mapping the water wells and water quality using online ESRI ArcGIS. With the compiled data of the well parameters exported from the DIME database, I went through the process of sorting, cleaning, and forming formulas with the data in a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet for several iterations. Once completed, I uploaded it into ArcGIS as a mapping layer for the wells' geolocation and analyte levels.

Through the visualization of both the current and previous data displayed in ArcGIS, I set it up to present a graph of certain parameters chosen and its level trends dating as far back as the early 2000s. It also displays areas with wells that may have high concentration of certain contaminants. The results of this project will perform as a start-up for an advancement in project prioritization to take action towards minimizing and fixing the quality of water for the public water systems on the islands.

Mitchell, J.N., Presley, T.K., and Carruth, R.L., 2021, Groundwater conditions and trends, 2009–19, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands: U.S. Geological Survey Scientific Investigations Report 2020–5129, 51 p., https://doi.org/10.3133/sir20205129.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Republicans are weaponizing congressional oversight to thwart Trump prosecution

With March 4, 2024, set for Donald Trump's trial on federal charges related to his attempt to overturn the 2020 election, one might think that members of Congress, like other Americans, would sit back and let the judicial process proceed. But some House Republicans have a different idea: defunding the special counsel who is prosecuting the former president.

The scheme is unlikely to succeed, but this malicious attack on special counsel Jack Smith and his investigations will further shore up Trump's claim to victimhood in the eyes of his supporters and further corrode confidence in public institutions.

Rep. Andrew Clyde (R-Ga.), who famously described the Jan. 6, 2021, attack on the Capitol as "not an insurrection," has proposed amendments to an appropriations bill that would ban federal funding for the prosecution of any major presidential candidate prior to the Nov. 5, 2024, election. Clyde's targets are not only the U.S. Justice Department but also local prosecutors who receive federal funds. Trump faces trial in New York and Georgia on charges sought by local district attorneys.

Clyde isn't alone in seeking to meddle in the prosecution of Trump. Rep. Matt Gaetz (R-Fla.) introduced a bill to defund Smith's office and Rep. Marjorie Taylor Greene (R-Ga.) has said she would propose a similar measure. Rep. Andy Ogles (R-Tenn.) has introduced legislation to prohibit paying Smith's salary.

In announcing his amendments, Clyde trotted out the nonsense about Trump's prosecutions that is gospel among MAGA Republicans. "The American people get to decide who wins the White House—not Deep State actors who have shamelessly attacked Donald Trump since he announced his first bid in 2015," Clyde said. "It is imperative that Congress use its power of the purse to protect the integrity of our elections, restore Americans' faith in our government, and dismantle our nation's two-tiered system of justice."

An actual two-tiered system of justice would look like what Clyde proposed, in which someone accused of crimes could get a free pass simply by announcing a campaign for the presidency. Because he is seeking to return to the White House, Trump already has received a form of special treatment. Citing Trump's status as a candidate, Attorney General Merrick Garland appointed Smith, a respected veteran prosecutor, to preside over investigations of Trump's efforts to overturn the 2020 election and his alleged retention of classified national security documents.

That hasn't stopped Trump or his supporters from claiming that Smith is biased or a pawn of President Joe Biden. House Speaker Kevin McCarthy, who has disgraced himself with his toadying to Trump, said after Trump was indicted for alleged mishandling of national-security documents: "It is unconscionable for a President to indict the leading candidate opposing him. Joe Biden kept classified documents for decades. I, and every American who believes in the rule of law, stand with President Trump against this grave injustice."

After Trump was indicted in Georgia by the Fulton County district attorney in connection with his efforts to overturn the

See REPUBLICANS on next Page

It's time to make America's democracy great again

By MARTIN SCHRAM
Tribune News Service

Martin Schram, an op-ed columnist for Tribune News Service, is a veteran Washington journalist, author and TV documentary executive. Readers may send him email at martin.schram@gmail.com.

To tell you the truth, if I do just that, the polls all say that one out of three of you won't want to hear or read it—and that you damn well won't believe it.

So let's start today with the things just about all of us believe. Almost all of us believe that we are on the side of the Patriotic Americans. And way too many of us believe, these days, that those on the other side aren't true patriots at all—but fake patriots who are America's true enemies.

We have fallen that far. We grew up proud to be celebrated by chroniclers of history as The Greatest Generation. USA! USA! America had led the way to victory in World War II, saved Europe and Asia from being conquered by our real enemies.

America's democracy was being celebrated around the world as the epitome of enlightened governance, as we maturely heeded the electoral will of our people. Even when it meant maturely transferring power between our two major parties. I have chronicled that moment twice in our modern era, from the most symbolic and true place of power—standing alone in the doorway when the Oval Office was between its masters at noon, Jan. 20, 1977 and 1981. Indeed, I wrote essays capturing two very different sorts of transfers of power I observed as I could hear the voice of its new masters, Jimmy Carter and then Ronald Reagan, taking their oaths of office.

In 1977, there was solitude as one lone secretary, Nell Yates, who had been working there since Eisenhower, observed the empty place of power, shook her head, and left. She returned just a minute later with five books that she placed between bookends on the empty desk. "At least now it makes you want to come in and do some work," she told me.

In I981, the silence erupted into tumult as a phalanx of furniture movers entered swiftly and began executing their choreographed and rehearsed plan—pivoting the furniture, replacing paintings. White House painter Joseph Morris began meticulously tending to last minute touch¬ ups, eager to please his new bosses, but unaware that, in his rush, he had neglected to remove the green-and-white Carter-Mondale button that was still on his coveralls. Two different, but collegial as well as peaceful, transfers of power.

Sadly, there was nothing collegial about our Jan. 20, 2021 transfer of power. History will never call the end of Donald Trump's presidency peaceful either. Fourteen days earlier, the Jan. 6 pro-Trump rally crowd was whipped into a frenzy by Trump's stop-the-steal speech. They bashed and smashed their way into the Capitol as senators and representatives fled. America's 45th president bitterly refused to attend the Jan. 20, 2021 inauguration of our 46th, President Joseph Biden.

We have come to this: A recent New York Times poll showed that 56% of Republicans believe America is "in danger of failing as a nation." But perhaps even more frightening is that 37% – that's more than one-third – of all registered voters think so too.

And it's no wonder. Just think about what our fellow patriots have been hearing and reading about themselves in recent weeks. I'm not talking about TV's talking heads or print's pundits. I'm not even talking about mainstream media's journalists that many of you are being told to disrespect and ignore. No, I'm talking about the facts that have been gathered by inquiries from the watchdogs from your side of today's politics (whichever side you're on).

Just read the direct quotes and explanations given by all those who have been indicted in states in which the Trump lawyers carefully planned fraudulent efforts and then dispatched their trusting true-believers in key swing states to sign documents stating that they were certified Trump presidential electors whose side had won the 2020 presidential election. The problem was that they had not been certified as victors—because indeed the certified vote totals showed Biden won in their states.

These fake electors then attempted to deliver their faked certifications to their state capitals. They—and those who planned their misrepresentation—are now indicted and awaiting trial. No wonder 37% of us fear our USA is in danger of failing.

We are entrapped in an Electoral College system that made grand and innovative sense back when it was created by our Founding Fathers. But it no longer makes sense today. The Electoral College system invites fraud and fakery—and makes no sense in the 21st century. Its usefulness and sensibleness is long past. It is time for us to begin a national conversation—and creating a far simpler system and more sensible system that will empower Americans to make our democracy great again.

Big Pharma is wrong. Allowing Medicare to negotiate drug prices won't hinder new cures

By COLLEEN GROGAN
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Big Pharma is pulling out all the stops to avoid lowering drug prices for seniors.

Several pharmaceutical companies, including Merck, Johnson & Johnson and Bristol Myers Squibb; the key pharma lobbying group Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA); and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce have recently filed lawsuits against President Joe Biden's administration, arguing that the Inflation Reduction Act provision that allows Medicare to negotiate drug prices with pharmaceutical companies is unconstitutional.

Their legal strategy is tantamount to "throwing the kitchen sink at the government," as one expert described it, with various lawsuits arguing violations to the First, Fifth, and Eighth amendments.

The pharmaceutical industry has argued that negotiating Medicare prices with the federal government will force them to pull back on developing groundbreaking new treatments. As Eli Lilly CEO David Ricks said in an interview this summer with CNBC, "I'm really worried about the harm this will do to new cures and possibilities in medicine."

This argument has long been parroted—invoked by the American Medical Association in the 1950s and again by the American Hospital Association in the 1970s—aiming to scare Americans into believing they will no longer have access to new cures and innovations if the government, in this case Medicare, negotiates over prices.

The argument relies on a central falsehood: that the government does not subsidize investments in pharmaceutical innovation. But evidence shows that public sector investments in basic and applied biomedical research—primarily from the National Institutes of Health—contribute substantively to the emergence of new drugs and drug-related patents.

Amazingly, given the pervasiveness of the industry's argument, a recent study found that NIH funding contributed to nearly all (99.4%) of FDA-approved drugs from 2010 to 2019, and the magnitude of NIH investment in new drugs is comparable with that of the industry. These findings clearly suggest that the public deserves a more equitable return on its investment relative to the pharmaceutical industry's investment.

The problem is that the public is largely unaware of the magnitude of its investment and the substantial role it plays in creating new and innovative medicines. This is just one example of a much larger grow-and-hide phenomenon in the U.S., in which the government increasingly funds an ever-growing health care system and yet hides its substantial role.

We Americans are told repeatedly that we have a predominantly private health care system. Official national health expenditure reports suggest the government funds 49% of total expenditures. But if you add up all hidden public subsidies to the private sector, the government funds at least 60% of total national health expenditures, and this is almost certainly an underestimate. Most point to public insurance to describe the government's role in health care, but it is far more widespread—not only for pharmaceuticals but throughout health care infrastructure.

The public's misunderstanding about the role of government in health care is not an accident. The scope of public funding is intentionally hidden from the American public. First, and not unexpectedly, most companies actively hide the subsidies they accept from government (and for which they often aggressively lobby). Pfizer, for example, misleadingly claims it did not receive any government research funding to develop its COVID-19 vaccine, but its partner, BioNTech, was founded based on the NIH-funded mRNA discovery. BioNTech also received $445 million from the German government to assist with vaccine development.

But, second, and much more surprising, the federal government consistently fails to advertise the important role it plays in subsidizing the U.S. health care system, including research and development for drug innovation.

Instead, when the industry claims that price negotiations will result in fewer cures, the retort is focused on the importance and extent of the reduction in new drugs. For example, proponents of Medicare price negotiations cite a Congressional Budget Office report that found that the law would result in only one fewer drug approval over the next 10 years. Yet, no one points to the fact that the reason price negotiations will not result in less innovation is because taxpayers already pay for the basic research that leads to the development of new drugs.

When Americans do know the extent of government subsidies, they act. The government's massive investment through Operation Warp Speed to create a COVID-19 vaccine created a rare opportunity for collective organizing about drug pricing and access. Activists protested as early as August 2020, demanding that the Moderna vaccine be made affordable. There were also protests about Moderna's unwillingness to share its vaccine technology with poor countries.

Investments made by the NIH and other federal health agencies do extensive work on the front end for the American people. Instead of communicating this significant role to the public and fighting to secure access to the medical cures and discoveries that result from our investment, the government is often cowed by moneyed interests in health care. For example, NIH was extremely timid in fighting for its joint patent with Moderna.

It is time we rethink how and when the government communicates the true nature of its role. The public needs to know that it has already invested in new drug development, and the magnitude of that investment, so it can then understand that Medicare price negotiations must take into account public and private investments to ensure a fair return for the American people.

The first step toward true reform is to reveal what is currently hidden from the American public. Intentionally obscuring the public's investment gives moneyed interests such as pharmaceutical companies the power to claim "new cures" will be imperiled if they are forced to negotiate. This fearmongering demands legislation aimed at transparency that would clearly detail all government subsidies to private actors, and a reformed discourse that debunks the myth that our health care system is "predominately private."

Ukraine's counteroffensive is working. With continued support, its forces will defeat Russia

By MATT DIMMICK
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

It's fair to say Ukraine's counteroffensive is moving slower than anticipated—but for good reason. We've all heard the saying, "Slow and steady wins the race." In this case, Ukraine's strategy is just that—a slow, steady and deliberate race to the Sea of Azov, where Ukrainians can divide Russia's army and pummel the remnants into surrendering territory that has been occupied for months.

In the end, I'm confident this strategy will prove successful against a weakened and demoralized Russian force that is under extraordinary stress.

For those who are disheartened by the slow pace of the Ukrainian offensive so far, it's pertinent to remember historical examples. Immediately after the D-Day landings during World War II, one of the most spectacularly successful military campaigns in history, Allied forces fought desperately to crack entrenched German positions. They advanced only a few miles from their beachheads in several weeks of hard fighting before finally breaking through and advancing rapidly. The Ukrainians' counteroffensive is also facing extraordinary headwinds, but their hard and bloody fighting today is likely setting the conditions for similar breakthroughs in the future.

On paper, the success of the Ukrainian counteroffensive seems destined to fail. The Ukrainians face a deeply entrenched Russian army that has had months to prepare fortified positions along every conceivable axis of advance. The depth of these complex defensive positions extends for several miles with multiple reinforcing belts and are seeded with hundreds of thousands of mines. The Russians also have massive stockpiles of shells on hand to pummel Ukrainians as they attempt to breach those defensive lines. Additionally, even after Ukraine clears lanes through dense minefields, the Russians are capable of reseeding those openings with munitions delivered by artillery and drones.

However, Ukraine is not fighting on paper, and it possesses a number of advantages over the Russians. First, the Russian army is not a healthy organization, and unhealthy armies tend to fracture and disintegrate in the face of sustained pressure. The Wagner Group rebellion led by mercenary chief Yevgeny Prigozhin in June was simply the tip of the iceberg. Dissatisfaction is endemic throughout the entire Russian army, in which troops at every level know this war is being badly led, badly managed and badly resourced.

As a result, morale among Russian soldiers is at rock bottom. Poorly trained and -led troops risking their lives for reasons they don't entirely understand are ripe for being routed. These miserable conscripts are also joined by tens of thousands of convicts who have been hauled out of prison to serve on the frontlines as expendable cannon fodder in which their focus is on personal survival rather than any sense of duty. Needless to say, none of these conditions helps bolster overall unit cohesion or a will to fight.

On the other hand, Ukraine's will to fight is strong and deeply felt by troops who are fighting to expel invaders from their home and protect the lives of their loved ones. The Ukrainians fight with a ferocity and determination that is borne out of a shared sense of purpose. That fighting spirit manifests itself daily as Ukrainian forces deliberately and painstakingly advance against Russian positions despite the extraordinary obstacles they face.

Another advantage is that while the Ukrainians are achieving success on the front lines, albeit in slow and incremental ways, they are steadily degrading supply depots, logistics commands and major headquarters throughout the depth of Russian defenses thanks to excellent intelligence and precision weaponry. Over time, these strikes on high-value targets are likely to achieve the type of cumulative effects that create gaps and pockets of weakness the Ukrainians can exploit with rapid advances.

Finally, while Russia continues to bleed combat power over time with diminishing means for replacing essential equipment, Ukrainian forces are benefiting from a steady flow of material support extended by dozens of nations—through federally funded aid and nonprofit organizations. I work for Spirit of America, a U.S. nonprofit that is helping provide Ukraine with the support it needs to win, I've seen firsthand how this assistance has changed the trajectory of the war. Every piece of additional support bolsters Ukraine's forces and increases their chances of shortening this war and limiting Ukrainian casualties.

Our friends in Ukraine may not seize all their territory back by the end of this year, or even well into next year, but there is no denying that the Ukrainians are making progress on the battlefield and that they outclass the Russian army in every intangible category essential for eventual victory. Instead of wringing our hands over the pace of their counteroffensive, Ukraine's friends and partners should bear down on providing as much consistent support as possible for as long as it takes for Ukrainians to win.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Unfortunate

It is unfortunate that Alter City Group was unable to complete their proposed hotel and casino resort on Tinian which resulted in the termination of their public land lease.

As the Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan, I will always support investment on Tinian that will promote Tinian's tourism industry and create private sector jobs. I believe Alter City had very good intentions to build a first-class resort on Tinian but unfortunately fell victim to external geopolitical factors.

However, as with any investor, they are still required to comply with the terms of the public land lease agreement and applicable law and regulations.

I hope Alter City will be able to "downsize" or "right size" their project for Tinian as we look forward to strengthening our partnership with Alter City in the development of Tinian's tourism industry.

Edwin P. Aldan
Mayor of Tinian and Aguiguan

REPUBLICANS

From Page 10

election, McCarthy complained that "Biden has weaponized government against his leading political opponent to interfere in the 2024 election." He added: "Now a radical DA in Georgia is following Biden's lead by attacking President Trump and using it to fundraise her political career."

It isn't just Republicans in Congress who are backing Trump, a man unfit for office. In last week's televised debate—in which Trump did not participate—most of the candidates raised their hands to indicate that they would support Trump if he won the Republican nomination, even if he were convicted.

Biden "weaponizing" the Justice Department is a constant GOP talking point, backed by no evidence. This week Rep. Jim Jordan (R-Ohio), the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, demanded information about a prosecutor's visit to the White House to interview a witness in Trump's classified documents case, saying it raises questions about a "coordinated effort" to "investigate and prosecute President Biden's political opponents."

If there is "weaponization" associated with the prosecutions of Trump, it is the weaponization of congressional oversight by Republicans to protect a disgraced former president, who now faces four separate indictments for criminal conduct.

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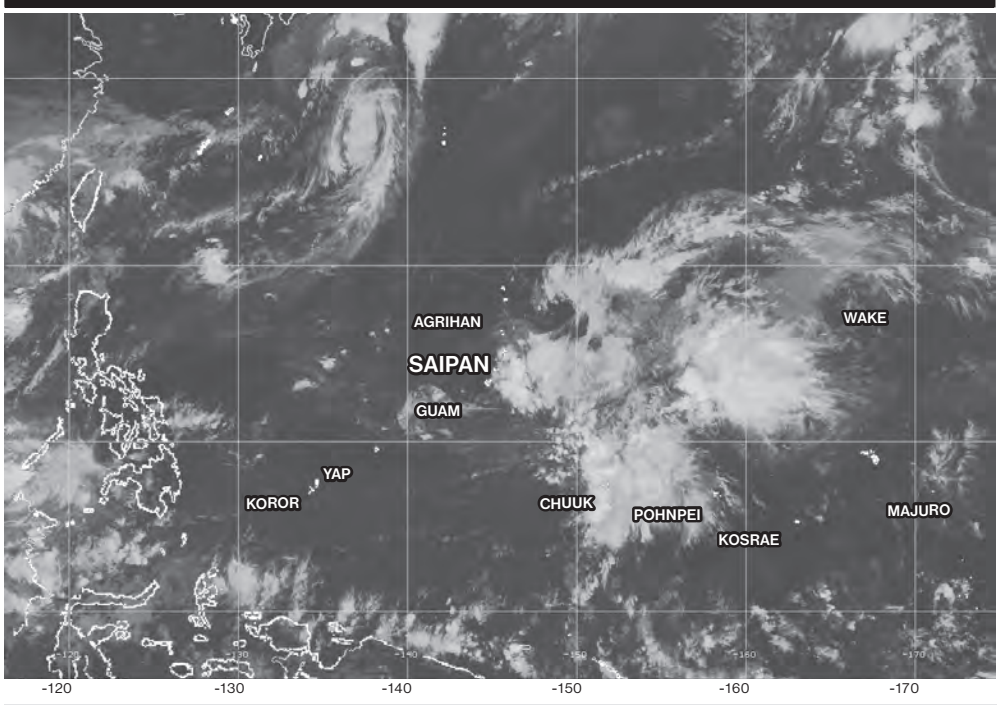
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY
Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy	Scattered showers and thunderstorms. Mostly cloudy	A 30 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A 40 percent chance of showers. Partly sunny	A chance of showers. Partly sunny
86° 80°	86° 79°	87° 79°	87° 79°	88° 79°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:28 AM, WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 7, 2023

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite and radar showing mostly cloudy skies with scattered showers over much of the coastal waters. A few lightning strikes were observed earlier this morning over the coastal waters. Ipan buoy and latest altimetry data indicate seas 3 to 5 feet.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorm	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorm	83° / 78°
Yap	Thunderstorm	85° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
Pohnpei	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
Kosrae	Thunderstorm	88° / 77°
Majuro	Thunderstorm	85° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:05 AM	6:24 PM
Saturday	6:05 AM	6:23 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	12:04 AM	1:38 PM	-
Saturday	12:57 AM	2:31 PM	-
Sunday	1:50 AM	3:20 PM	-
Monday	2:44 AM	4:05 PM	-
Tuesday	3:35 AM	4:46 PM	-

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	57° / 52°
Beijing	Thunderstorm	82° / 73°
Hong Kong	Thunderstorm	86° / 81°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	86° / 75°
London	Partly Cloudy	81° / 61°
Los Angeles	Sunny	86° / 70°
Manila	Thunderstorm	82° / 77°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	55° / 36°
Miami	Thunderstorm	87° / 79°
New York	Mostly Sunny	84° / 68°
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	91° / 79°
Paris	Partly Cloudy	82° / 63°
Busan	Partly Cloudy	82° / 75°
Rome	Sunny	90° / 68°
Salem	Thunderstorm	93° / 73°
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	66° / 58°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	86° / 73°
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	88° / 77°
Washington, DC	Sunny	86° / 69°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
12:33 AM	High Tide	1.67
08:42 AM	Low Tide	0.15
4:44 PM	High Tide	1.69
9:48 PM	Low Tide	1.38

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 1, 2023

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA117	9:50AM	10:30AM	Daily
UA156	7:10PM	7:55PM	1 up to Sep 4

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	7:25AM	9:55AM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
PR 111	7:05AM	9:05AM	7
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily up to Sep 4
UA183	7:20PM	9:10PM	Daily from Sep 5

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/703	4:20AM	10:35PM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA117/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA117/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
OZ626	4:20AM	7:55AM	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:20AM	6:30AM	1, 4, 5, 7

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:50AM	Daily
UA112	5:15PM	6:05PM	1 up to Sep 4

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	9:25PM	1:50AM+1	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

UA184	10:25PM	4:25AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:10AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
PR110	11:40PM	5:35AM+1	6
UA184	11:50PM	5:50AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ702/625	12:05PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA192/174	10:25PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:50AM+1	2, 5 via Guam

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:30PM	2:15AM+1	Daily
OZ625	9:25PM	2:55AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:35PM	2:20AM+1	3, 4, 6, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JUNE 1, 2022

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	8:30	9:00	Daily
1302	11:00	11:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
1302	12:00	12:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
1303	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	13:00	13:30	Tues/Thurs/Sat/Sun
3102	14:00	14:30	Mon/Wed/Fri
3103	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

LIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	12:00	12:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	13:00	13:30	Mon/Wed/Fri

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1202	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	10:00	10:15	Daily
1208	14:00	14:15	Daily
1209	15:00	15:15	Daily
1210	16:00	16:15	Daily
1211	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2102	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	10:30	10:45	Daily
2108	14:30	14:45	Daily
2109	15:30	15:45	Daily
2110	16:30	16:45	Daily
2111	17:30	17:45	Daily

Humanities Council announces leadership and affirms vision

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is pleased to announce the continued leadership of Dr. Bobby Cruz as chairperson, Gretchen A. Smith as vice chairperson and Program Committee chair, and Leonard Leon as secretary/treasurer of the board of directors.

With a focus on promoting indigenous and diverse narratives, the council is committed to exploring and highlighting every story, especially those that promote greater awareness of marginalized groups in the local community.

The council's leadership team also includes Committee chairs Lynette L. Villagomez, M.Ed., Strategic Planning & Evaluation; Michael White, Esq., Nominating & Bylaws and; Robert C. Harrell, Development. Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho, Samuel M. McPhetres, Kimberly Mendiola, and Marjorie A. Daria bring their diverse leadership experiences, completing a strong roster of veterans and newcomers into the council.

Cruz

Smith

Leon

In his role as chairperson, Cruz is dedicated to expanding the representation of indigenous and diverse populations in the Marianas, ensuring their unique experiences are heard and understood. His vision emphasizes community building and advocating for tailored initiatives that address the specific needs of the Pacific community, while seeking national and global recognition for the Pacific communities.

The chairperson expressed, "I am fortunate to have a team of experienced, principled, and passionate individuals who stand beside me. I value their wisdom and rely on the hardworking staff and management of our executive director, all of whom share a deep passion for the humanities and care deeply about the people of the Marianas. I am excited to continue serving to bring more voice and visibility to our home islands and all who call it home."

In addition to conducting a number of educational programs to advance the humanities in the CNMI, the council participates in a network that includes other U.S. Pacific Island councils in Hawai'i, American Samoa, and Guam to strengthen regional collaboration and address common issues. At the national level, the council's executive director sits on the board of the Federation of State Humanities Councils to support the work of all 56 state and jurisdictional councils as well as advocate for federal funding.

"We remain focused on activities that promote the history, culture and experiences of the people of the Marianas. We also support other expressions of our humanity through grants we award to groups with project ideas that align with our strategic plan," said Leo Pangelinan, executive director for the council. "This past summer, we made significant changes to our programs to better align our activities with our strategic goals. Our 25-year Motheread/Fatheread CNMI program, for example, will experience significant changes to prioritize Chamorro and Carolinian language literacy activities in our community," he added.

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council was established as a cultural and educational nonprofit organization in 1991 to advance the humanities within the CNMI. Its mission today is to navigate and explore the human experiences of the indigenous and diverse people of the Commonwealth by enriching their lives through research, dialogue, programs, and publications. ***(PR)***

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Housekeeping Director (Saipan, MP) Responsible for establishing standard procedures for work of housekeeping associates, planning their work schedules, performing daily inspections, hiring, training, & supervising housekeeping associates, & evaluating their performance, HS/GED, 2 yrs of housekeeping supervisor exp reqd.

Mail resume to Micronesia Resort Inc., at PO Box 5152, CHRB San Roque Saipan, MP 96950.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID
ITB23-CHCC/CGC-SPP-019

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 15, 2023 TIME:10:00AM (CHST)

"LEASE OF VEHICLE"

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS INVITATION TO BID FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

THE CHCC RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL PROPOSAL ANO TO WAIVE ANY IMPERFECTIONS IN ANY PROPOSAL, IF TO DO SO SHALL BE IN THE INTEREST OF THE CHCC. ALL PROPOSALS SHALL BECOME THE EXCLUSIVE PROPERTY OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION.

/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Auto Mechanic – JMC-2023-01
Saipan, CNMI

Auto Mechanic,
Joeten Motor Company, Inc., Saipan, CNMI

Repair automobiles, trucks, buses, and other vehicles. Follow supervisors' instructions to examine vehicles to determine extent of damage or malfunctions. Test drive vehicles, and test components and systems, using equipment such as infrared engine analyzers, compression gauges, and computerized diagnostic devices. Repair, reline, replace, and adjust brakes. Review work orders and discuss work with supervisors. Follow checklists to ensure all important parts are examined, including belts, hoses, steering systems, spark plugs, brake and fuel systems, wheel bearings, and other potentially troublesome areas. Plan work procedures, using charts, technical manuals, and experience. Test and adjust repaired systems to meet manufacturers' performance specifications. Confer with customers to obtain descriptions of vehicle problems, and to discuss work to be performed and future repair requirements. Perform routine and scheduled maintenance services such as oil changes, lubrication, and tune-ups. Disassemble units and inspect parts for wear, using micrometers, calipers, and gauges. Does other duties as assigned from time to time.

Minimum Requirements: Must have 12 months experience. High School Diploma or equivalent. Ability to diagnose and repair vehicles and follow safety instructions and directions. Proficiency with hand tools and other equipment. Record keeping and maintaining inventory. Applicants must pass Auto Parts skilled test (Total Passing Score of 89%) during application process. The skill testing and comprehension exam are required equally of both US and Foreign workers. Must be able to work on weekends and holidays on short notice.

Salary: $ 9.93 - $14.00 per hour.

Workplace: BEACH ROAD SAN JOSE VILLAGE, JOETEN MOTORS BUILDING Saipan, CNMI

Please submit your resume to Joeten Susupe Main Office or Joeten Motor Company, Inc., PO BOX 500680, Saipan, MP 96950 or e-mail to judy_ann@joetenmotors.com and hrd1@joeten.com, website: joetenmotors.com Job Number – **JMC-2023-01**

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

ROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-013-23
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 06, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF RUNWAY PAINT AND GLASS BEADS"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 01, 2023. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $100.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF RUNWAY PAINT AND GLASS BEADS **(IFB-013-23)**" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 06, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Date: _____

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

PROJECT NO. CPA-IFB-006-23
SUBMISSION DATE: OCTOBER 11, 2023: 2:00 P.M.

"CONSTRUCTION OF TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SIGN"

THE BID PACKAGE IS AVAILABLE FOR PICK UP AT THE COMMONWONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY (CPA) ACCOUNTING OFFICE, 2ND FLOOR, DEPARTURE BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 08, 2023. AN ADMINISTRATIVE FEE OF $50.00 SHALL BE PAID TO CPA BEFORE A BIDDER MAY OBTAIN THE BID PACKAGE. PAYMENTS SHALL BE IN CASH, CASHIER'S CHECK, OR CREDIT CARD.

BIDDERS ARE TO SUBMIT ONE (1) ORIGINAL AND TWO (2) COPIES IN A SEALED ENVELOPE AND MARKED "CONSTRUCTION OF TINIAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT SIGN (IFB-006-23)" TO THE OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, 2ND FLOOR, ARRIVAL BUILDING, SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT ON OR BEFORE 2:00 P.M., OCTOBER 11, 2023. BIDDERS SHALL TAKE INTO CONSIDERATIONS ALL CHARGES ASSOCIATED WITH THIS PROCUREMENT BEFORE FINALIZING ITS BID PRICE.

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CPA PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION §40-50-1020 AND 1025 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CPA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY AND ALL BIDS, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF CPA.

CHRISTOPHER S. TENORIO
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

DATE: _____

COMMONWEALTH HEALTHCARE CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP)
"ADDENDUM"
"CORRECTION ON THE LAST DATE TO SUBMIT QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES"

RFP23-CHCC/CAS-019A

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF QUESTIONS AND INQUIRIES:
SEPTEMBER 18th, 2023
DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION OF RFP:
SEPTEMBER 29th, 2023 TIME: 10:00 AM (CHST)

"PROCUREMENT OF MOBILE OPEN MRI"

(Outright Purchase, Shipping, Delivery, Installation, Training and Commissioning for CHC Hospital/Radiology Department)

INTERESTED PARTIES CAN DOWNLOAD THIS REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL FROM THE CHCC WEBSITE [WWW.CHCC.HEALTH]. ONCE AT THE SITE, NAVIGATE TO **REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS** TAB ON THE LEFT NAVIGATION BAR. CLICK ON THE URL FOR THIS RFP. YOU WILL BE REQUIRED TO ENTER DATA TO ALLOW US TO TRACK ALL REQUESTS FOR THIS OPPORTUNITY.

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/S/ ESTHER L. MUNA
CHCC CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

/S/ CORA P. ADA
DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

JKPL recognizes outstanding employees and employee of the year

JKPL PHOTOS

Caitlyn Joan Lieto Crisostomo, 2023 Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Employee of the Year, poses in front of the JKPL booth at Labor Day grounds last Saturday.

Library assistant 1 Caitlyn Joan Lieto Crisostomo with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios.

Team Joeten-Kiyu Public Library celebrated Labor Day by recognizing outstanding employees and the overall employee of the year during the annual CNMI government-wide Labor Day festivities held at the Garapan Fishing Base last Sunday, Sept. 3, 2023.

JKPL director Erlinda C. Naputi recognized this year's overall 2023 Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Employee of the Year, library assistant I Caitlyn Joan Lieto Crisostomo.

She has been with the library for five years now. But before that, she started volunteering at the library while attending Marianas High School. Then she served as a library intern during Super Typhoon Yutu.

"I was very impressed with her work ethic when the library was used as a FEMA Disaster Center. She loves helping the community and volunteering to assist all department areas in any way she can. It came as no surprise that she was hired as a library assistant and then promoted to library assistant I. She is a valuable member of our team. Caitlyn assists in the day-to-day operations of the JKPL," said Naputi

Crisostomo is responsible for organizing employee celebrations, ordering books and supplies, assisting in Teen Services by facilitating Teen-driven programming, managing and inventorying JKPL office supplies, inputting requisitions into MUNIS, soliciting for event sponsorships, scheduling the Video-TeleConference Room/McRel Room, answering phones, conducting cashier services, cleaning the JKPL facility, assisting in all library programs and services, and so much more.

"She is self-motivated and a great pleasure to work with. She has a positive attitude. She is very reliable, friendly, meticulous, diligent, and completes all her work on time," the JKPL director added.

Crisostomo is the current director of Events and Programs in the Northern Marianas Library Association. She was also competitively selected by the American Library Association and the Young Adult Library Services Association to represent the Northern Marianas in 2022 for the T3 Train the Trainer: Improving Teen Services Cohort held in Indianapolis, Indiana. She is an active member of the Pacific Association of Libraries, Archives, and Museums. She is also a Certified Instructor in the Motheread/Fatheread CNMI Adult Curriculum and the Children's Story Exploring Curriculum.

Team JKPL also recognized the following outstanding employees for five years or more for length of public service at the JKPL:

- 5 years Caitlyn Joan Lieto Crisostomo, library assistant I
- 6 years Beth Barcinas Demapan, technical services librarian
- 7 years Gerard Anthony Borja, library assistant III
- 7 years Bergitt Maratita, library assistant I (Antonio C. Atalig Memorial Library, Rota)
- 9 years Joey Songsong, computer programmer II
- 9 years Leoralynn Sablan Terlaje, library assistant III
- 11 years Silverio DLC. Balisalisa, Library Services coordinator
- 15 years Ray Jr. Deleon Guerrero, computer specialist I
- 17 years Celina Camacho Foreman, librarian I
- 27 years in total CNMI government Systems librarian Omar Tababa Manacop (9 years JKPL)
- 31 years in total CNMI government, administrative officer III Vincent Donald Palacios Sablan (6 years JKPL)
- 31 years Erlinda Cabrera Naputi, library director

Naputi also acknowledged her hardworking team at JKPL and thanked their sponsors—the Northern Marianas Library Association and Pacific Trading Co.

JKPL also welcomes and encourages businesses to please consider donating Educational Tax Credit. Pursuant to NMI Public Law 15-120, the state library is able to receive cash contributions under ETC. Please make checks payable to: CNMI Treasury. For MUNIS payments, please remit to the Friends of the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library MUNIS Vendor ID#100404.

Please enjoy your public library's free resources by visiting JKPL's website at www.cnmilib.org like/follow JKPL's Facebook page @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Instagram @joetenkiyupubliclibrary, Tik Tok @jkpl670, Twitter @JoetenKiyu, and Youtube: joeten kiyu public library or visit their website www.cnmilib.org to see the progress and programs JKPL has worked so hard to offer for our community. For more information regarding any of our activities, please contact JKPL @670-235-7322/7318. JKPL's normal hours of operation are as follows: Open Tuesday to Thursday 10am-6pm, Friday 1:30pm-7pm, and Saturday 9:30am-4pm. Closed Sundays, Mondays, Austerity Saturdays, and holidays.

This project was made possible in part by the Institute of Museum and Library Services LS-LS-252496-OLS-22 and LS-253665-OLS-23.

JKPL is an equal opportunity provider and employer. ***(PR)***

Team JKPL and Employee of the Year Caitlyn Crisostomo with Gov. Arnold I. Palacios at the Labor Day grounds last Saturday at the Garapan Fishing Base.

Call for nominations for Governor's Humanities Awards

The Northern Marianas Humanities Council is inviting the general public to nominate deserving individuals or organizations for a 2023 Governor's Humanities Award.

Each year, the Northern Marianas Humanities Council works in collaboration with the Office of the Governor to honor and recognize individuals and groups who make outstanding contributions to the humanities in the CNMI community.

Nominations should be limited to contributions in one or more of the following categories:

- Research and Publication in the Humanities
- Outstanding Humanities Teacher (in or out of the classroom setting)
- Preservation of CNMI History
- Preservation of Traditional Cultural Practices
- Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities

Nomination forms and more information about each award category are available on the Northern Marianas Humanities Council's website at nmhcouncil.org/ghc.

The deadline to submit a nomination is Oct. 5, 2023. Awardees will be recognized in October during Humanities Month.

The humanities include the study and interpretation of language; linguistics; literature; history; jurisprudence; philosophy; archaeology; comparative religion; ethics; the history, criticism, and theory of the arts; those aspects of social sciences which have humanistic content and employ humanistic methods; and the human environment with particular attention to our diverse heritage, traditions, and history. ***(PR)***

Business

Giovanni's is back at the Hyatt

Saipan's legendary and premiere Italian dining venue is back at Hyatt Regency Saipan! Giovanni's is now finally open again with the return of an authentic Italian a la carte menu, every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 6pm to 9pm.

Humble yet proud, executive chef Matteo Fracalossi said that Giovanni's offerings reflect the very fundamental Italian cuisine with a truly trattoria style—authentic comfort food. "Trattoria is less formal and straight forward. When you are craving for simple yet authentic Italian dishes, Giovanni's will always ensure fresh ingredients with a delightful aroma. A menu crated for every preference with diverse flavors."

"We have created dishes from different provinces of Italy. From the Alps in the North to the Mediterranean in the south—that is our effort to bring the spirit of Italy to Saipan," he added.

Giovanni's also has some unique gems in store, other restaurants on Saipan may not have. "For example, our Spaghetti alla Luciana. This main course dish consists of an octopus stew with red wine and tomato as base. It becomes a sauce where we sauté the pasta together with the seafood," Fracalossi said.

Giovanni's menu starts from antipasti that includes carpaccio di manzo (thinly sliced beef tenderloin, parmigiana cream, toasted pine nut, micro green) and fritto misto (deep fried calamari, shrimp, mahi mahi with lemon). Main courses offer meat such as lamb, pork or angus beef, but also seafood. All-time favorites such as pizza, pasta, and Italian desserts are waiting equally for our guests.

HYATT

Pizza and red wine are always a perfect pairing at Hyatt Regency Saipan.

Further, Fracalossi highly recommends to try two of his signature dishes. "The first one is Crostini Toscani. It is composed of ripe tomato, chicken liver and black olive bruschetta, mixed salads, and a balsamic dressing on the side. Fresh and simple ingredients are the key to an authentic meal. The flavors remind me of how my mother would put together such a unique taste that makes it unforgettable to me," he said.

His second recommendation is Testaroli, "…because it is a very particular pasta. It is first seared in a cast iron pan before it is boiled in water."

Hyatt Regency Saipan is welcoming back all guests to experience the return of our authentic Italian menu. A la carte dinner is available every Thursday, Friday, and Saturday from 6pm to 9pm. Enjoy the new a la carte dinner menu with items starting from $12.

HYATT

Hyatt Regency Saipan executive chef Matteo Fracalossi.

For reservations, visit saipan.regency.hyatt.com and click the "Dining tab" or call (670) 234-1234. Club at the Hyatt members are welcome as always. ***(PR)***

Community First opens new Hagåtña headquarters

HAGATNA, Guam—Community First Guam Federal Credit Union announced that it opened the doors of its newly built Hågatña Headquarters and Member Service Center, located along Route 4, between West O'Brien Drive and Chalan Santo Papa, in the island's historic capital.

The new Community First Hågatña Headquarters and Member Service Center opened on Sept. 5, 2023, and members are welcome to conduct their transactions through its walk-up service, the drive-thru teller lane (enter from the Martyr Street entrance next to the Guam Library), and the ATM located at the front of the building. There is ample parking, and the building can be accessed from both Route 4 and Martyr Street. The Hågatña location is open Monday through Friday from 9am to 5pm and on Saturdays from 9am to 12pm.

Community First also engaged local artist Joshua Agerstrand to design a mural that would honor its members and incorporate cultural pride. The mural is in progress and located along the drive-thru teller lane. The community is invited to view the art in progress, and the final mural will be revealed on Community First's social media pages (@cfirstguam on Facebook and Instagram).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The new Community First Hågatña Headquarters and Member Service Center opened on Sept. 5, 2023.

Community First Guam Federal Credit Union is a community-chartered, full-service financial institution serving the community of Guam. Established in 1962, Community First is the oldest local Credit Union on Guam and is celebrating its 60th Anniversary this year. The credit union has four Member Service Centers in Hagåtña, Tamuning, Dededo, and Guam's first Student-Run Service Center in Mangilao. The credit union is federally insured by the National Credit Union Administration. Engage with us online at cfirstguam.com or on Facebook and Instagram (@cfirstguam). ***(PR)***

Nation

Biden refuses to grant some of the conditions 9/11 defendants seeking

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden has refused to approve some of the conditions that lawyers for the defendants in the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks had sought in a possible plea bargain, ruling out a presidential guarantee that the five men would be spared solitary confinement and provided care for the trauma of their torture in CIA custody, a White House National Security Council official said Wednesday.

Biden's refusal on the plea-bargain guarantees leaves it to military prosecutors and defense lawyers to try to hash out an agreement on a plea bargain. The terms under discussion would have the five Guantanamo detainees plead guilty and serve life sentences in exchange for being spared the death penalty.

Lawyers for the two sides have been exploring a negotiated resolution to the case for about 1 1/2 years. They had been waiting for about a year of that time to see if Biden would express opposition or support for some of the conditions that defense lawyers had been seeking.

Biden agreed with Defense Secretary Lloyd Austin's recommendation not to accept the proposed terms as a basis for plea negotiations, according to the National Security Council official, who was not authorized to comment publicly and spoke on the condition of anonymity.

Biden was unsettled about accepting terms for the plea from those responsible for the deadliest assault on the United States since Pearl Harbor, the official said.

The White House had been reluctant to weigh in on the matter. Biden believed that the decision was the responsibility of the senior military official overseeing the U.S. military proceedings at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, according to another person familiar with the matter who also was not authorized to comment and spoke on condition of anonymity.

The five defendants include Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, accused as the architect of the attacks, which were waged by commandeered commercial jetliners. The al-Qaida plot killed nearly 3,000 people outright in New York, the Washington, D.C.-area and Pennsylvania. The attack also changed the course of U.S. foreign policy and sparked deadly U.S. military invasions of Afghanistan, which had hosted al-Qaida, and Iraq, which had no role in the plot.

Pretrial hearings for the five have been under way at the U.S. military commission at Guantanamo Bay for more than a decade, with no trial date set. Legal questions, including the legal ramifications of the torture the men underwent after capture in the years immediately after the attack, have complicated the case. So have the logistical challenges of holding the proceedings outside the United States.

Phoenix on track to set another heat record

PHOENIX (AP)—Phoenix, already the hottest large city in America, is poised to set yet another heat record this weekend while confirmed heat-associated deaths are on track for a record of their own.

The National Weather Service says after a brief respite from the heat over the Labor Day holiday, the city is expected to break its previous record of 53 days of 110-degree Fahrenheit (43.3 Celsius) weather in a single year, set in 2020. Afternoon weekend highs will range between 108 and 113 degrees Fahrenheit (42.2-45 Celsius) across Arizona's lower deserts.

"Remember to stay hydrated and avoid sun exposure from 10am to 6pm this weekend!" the weather service advised on social media.

Phoenix has now seen 52 days of temperatures at or above 110 degrees in 2023 and is expected to hit that mark again on both Saturday and Sunday, when an extreme heat watch will be in effect, local meteorologists said. The temperature could also hit 110 degrees on Monday.

The high on Wednesday was 108 degrees Fahrenheit (42.2 Celsius).

The desert city set a record in July with a 31-day streak of highs at or above 110 degrees. The previous record was 18 straight days, set in 1974.

It was part of a historic heat wave this summer that stretched from Texas across New Mexico and Arizona and into California's desert.

Phoenix has now seen 100 days with 100-degree Fahrenheit-plus (37.7 Celsius) temperatures this year as of Wednesday. That's in line so far with the average of 111 days hitting triple digits every year between 1991 and 2020.

Maricopa County, home to Phoenix and the most populous county in Arizona, also appears headed toward an annual record for heat-associated deaths.

The suspected heat victims have included a hiker who collapsed in the blazing sun on a city trail, and a 9-year-old migrant boy who died in Mesa, Arizona after falling ill while crossing the Arizona-Mexico border with his family.

County public health officials said Wednesday there have been 194 heat-associated deaths confirmed for this year as of Sept. 2. Another 351 are under investigation.

There were 153 heat-associated deaths in the county confirmed by the same week last year, with another 238 deaths under investigation.

Maricopa County has confirmed 425 heat-related deaths in 2022.

"Given the number of confirmed heat-associated deaths and the number that are currently under investigation, it's possible we could have even more heat-associated deaths this year than in 2022," said Sonia Singh, supervisor for Maricopa County Public Health Department's office of communications. "These heat deaths are preventable, however, and with the temperatures we are still seeing, it's important that people don't let their guard down.

"Continue to take precautions like staying hydrated, do outdoor work or exercise in the cooler parts of the day, and stay in air-conditioned spaces during the hottest parts of the day," Singh added.

Arizona Gov. Katie Hobbs in mid-August declared a state of emergency following more than a month of extreme heat statewide.

Hobbs said then that the declaration would allow the state to reimburse various government entities for funds spent on providing relief from high temperatures.

Asia

IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Harris says 'we have to see the future'

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—It took more than a day of flying, including two refueling stops, for Vice President Kamala Harris to reach this year's summit of Southeast Asian countries. And once she arrived, she had less than eight minutes of public speaking time during two meetings.

But in Jakarta's cavernous convention center, adorned with billowing flowers and tropical plants for the occasion, Harris saw an opportunity to shape the future of United States foreign policy.

In an interview with The Associated Press, the vice president said that Washington must "pay attention to 10, 20, 30 years down the line, and what we are developing now that will be to the benefit of our country then."

For her, that means working in Southeast Asia. Two-thirds of its population is under 35 years old. It's the fourth-largest market for U.S. exports. One-third of global shipping travels through the South China Sea.

"Think about it," Harris said.

This was her third trip to Southeast Asia since taking office—Harris heads back to Washington on Thursday—and she's visited more countries here than any other region. It's a sprawling constellation of nations, many of them eager for the personal touch of an American leader, and Harris has spent the past few years making the rounds.

Although addressing migration from Central America was the original task in Harris' foreign policy portfolio, her more recent travels have put her at the center of White House efforts to bolster ties in Asia as a counterbalance to China. It's an international parallel to her more prominent role in domestic politics, where she's been taking the lead on core Democratic issues such as abortion rights in the upcoming election.

AP

U.S. Vice President Kamala Harris speaks during the Association of the Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)-U.S. Summit in Jakarta, Indonesia, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023.

At home and abroad, progress can be slow or hard to measure. Harris' approval ratings remain underwater, and her announcements in Southeast Asia tend to be counted in the millions of dollars rather than the billions. But she described her work in the region as something that will pay dividends over time as she gets to know its leaders.

"The strongest relationships will be based on consistency, on communication, on trust, and the ability to work together and to grow the sense of connection," she said.

Jake Sullivan, President Joe Biden's national security adviser, said "many of our best successes in the region were made possible thanks to her diplomacy," crediting Harris with helping to "move the ball forward on some of our top priorities."

"In our administration, she has been a strong advocate for stepping up our engagement in Southeast Asia—and she's put in the air miles to prove that—in recognition that our work there is critical to our own security and economic growth," Sullivan said.

Some analysts believe China maintains an edge in the region, and the Australia-based Lowy Institute issued a report earlier this year concluding that Beijing was still gaining ground in recent years.

However, Harris delivered a series of messages at the Association of Southeast Asian Nations that were intended to demonstrate American commitment despite Biden's absence from the summit.

"The American people have a profound stake in the future of the Indo-Pacific," she said during one meeting. "We share a historic bond and common values with many of the people and nations here."

Harris also paid tribute to ASEAN as an organization, despite growing doubts about its effectiveness for regional diplomacy.

"The fact that so many leaders are convening in this one place at the same time to address some of the biggest challenges facing our world is a sign of strength of both the commitment that each nation has to the coalition and the potential for collaboration," she told the AP.

Others are less hopeful.

Dinna Prapto Raharja, a Jakarta-based analyst and professor on international relations, said ASEAN is being divided by competition between the U.S. and China, with some countries seeking to bolster their economies through closer relations with one or the other.

Kim's possible trip to Russia could be like his 2019 journey

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—Reports that Kim Jong Un may travel to Russia soon have drawn attention to the traditional method of travel for North Korean leaders: luxury, armored trains that have long been a part of the dynasty's lore and are symbols of its deep isolation.

In what would be his first foreign travel since the start of the pandemic, Kim may visit Russia this month for a meeting with Russian President Vladimir Putin, a U.S. official has said, possibly to discuss North Korean arms sales to refill Russian reserves drained by its war on Ukraine.

According to U.S. reports, the two leaders could meet in the eastern city of Vladivostok, the site of their first get-together in April 2019, when Kim took his green-and-yellow train. Putin is expected in the city for the annual Eastern Economic Forum that runs from Sunday to Wednesday.

The reports come at a time when the leaders' interests are aligning in the face of their deepening, separate confrontations with the United States.

Whether Kim could again make the rattling 20-hour journey by rail is a focus of media attention, as is the reportedly luxurious train, which stands in sharp contrast to the grinding poverty of daily life for most North Koreans.

Kim's famously flight-averse father, Kim Jong Il, made about a dozen trips abroad during his 17-year rule, almost all to China and all by train. North Korea's state media said that the elder Kim died of a heart attack during a train trip in 2011.

According to an account published in 2002 by Konstantin Pulikovsky, a Russian official who accompanied Kim Jong ll on a three-week trip to Moscow, the train carried cases of expensive French wine and passengers could feast on fresh lobster and pork barbeque.

The train's most important feature, however, is security. According to South Korean media reports, North Korea has 90 special carriages in total and operates three trains in tandem when a leader is traveling—an advance train to check the rails, the train with the leader and his immediate entourage, and a third behind for everyone else. High-tech communication equipment and flat-screen TVs are installed so a leader can give orders and receive briefings.

India's rising geopolitical clout will be tested as it hosts the G20 summit

NEW DELHI (AP)—Ahead of India's hosting of the G20 summit of leading economies, its prime minister invited 125 mostly developing countries to a virtual meeting in January to signal New Delhi's intention to be their champion on the world stage.

As the leaders logged onto Zoom, Prime Minister Narendra Modi listed major challenges he said could be better addressed if developing countries had a bigger share in the emerging global order: the COVID-19 pandemic, climate change, terrorism, the war in Ukraine.

"The world is in a state of crisis," Modi said. "Most of the global challenges have not been created by the Global South. But they affect us more."

India has pledged to amplify the voice of the so-called Global South—a wide of expanse of mostly developing countries, many of them former colonies, in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Latin America, Oceania and the Caribbean.

That pledge will be put to the test this week when world leaders arrive in New Delhi for this year's G20 summit, which begins Saturday. But India has promoted itself not only as a bridge to the developing world, but as a rising global player and— importantly—a mediator between the West and Russia.

Steering through fractures among the world's various blocs over Russia's war in Ukraine will be a "diplomatic high-wire act" for India, said Milan Vaishnav, director of the South Asia Program at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

None of the several G20 meetings this year have produced a communique, with Russia and China vetoing wording on the war that they once agreed to at last year's summit in Indonesia, when the summit statement noted that "most members strongly condemned" the invasion.

If leaders don't break this deadlock over the weekend, it could lead to the first time that the group's summit has ended without a communique, an unprecedented setback for the grouping, said John Kirton, director and founder of the G20 Research Group.

Russian President Vladimir Putin is not attending and neither is China's leader Xi Jinping. Both are sending representatives.

Given New Delhi's historic ties with Moscow, its surging relationship with the West, and its hostility with Beijing over a years-long boundary dispute, Modi is in a diplomatically complicated position.

India has relied on Russia, its Cold War era ally, for military hardware for decades — and more recently, for record amounts of cheap oil. Despite India's refusal to directly condemn Russia over the war, the West and allies have courted the country aggressively as they bank on it as a bulwark against China's growing ambitions.

U.S. President Joe Biden pulled out the red carpet for Modi recently as the two signed a slate of deals, the Indian prime minister was a guest of honor at France's Bastille Day parade, and he was invited to attend the G7 summit a few months ago.

"Is Prime Minister Modi as skilled and as committed as President Widodo of Indonesia was last year to find a way to produce a communique? That's more of an open question given the progress of Russia's war against Ukraine," Kirton said.

As the split over Ukraine casts a shadow over the G20, India has focused on issues affecting developing countries, like food and fuel insecurity, rising inflation, debt and reforms of multilateral development banks. And in a bid to make the G20 more inclusive, Modi has proposed the African Union become a permanent member.

World

Flooding in southern Brazil kills at least 31

MUCUM, Brazil (AP)—Flooding from a cyclone in southern Brazil washed away houses, trapped motorists in vehicles and swamped streets in several cities, killing at least 31 people and leaving 2,300 homeless, authorities said Wednesday.

More than 60 cities have been battered since Monday night by the storm, which has been Rio Grande do Sul state's deadliest, Gov. Eduardo Leite said.

"The fly-over we just did, shows the dimension of an absolutely out of the ordinary event," Leite said in a video posted on the state's social media accounts. "It wasn't just riverside communities that were hit, but entire cities that were completely compromised."

Videos shot by rescue teams Tuesday and published by the online news site G1 had shown some families on the top of their houses pleading for help as rivers overflowed their banks. Some areas were entirely cut off after wide avenues turned into fast-moving rivers.

Leite said Wednesday that the death toll had reached 31, and state emergency authorities said at least 2,300 people were made homeless. Another 3,000 had to temporarily evacuate their houses.

In Mucum, a city of about 50,000 residents, rescuers found 15 bodies in a single house. Once the storm had passed, residents discovered a trail of destruction along the river with most buildings swept away down to the ground level. Images showed a sheep hanging from an electrical line — an indication of how high the water had risen.

"The water arrived very fast, it was rising two meters (6½ feet) an hour," Mucum resident Marcos Antonio Gomes said, standing on top of a pile of debris. "We have nothing left. Not even clothes."

In an indication of how long people might be stranded, the Mucum city hall advised residents Tuesday to seek out supplies to meet their needs for the next 72 hours. Other towns called on their citizens with boats to help with rescue efforts.

Gomes, a 55-year-old businessman, said it was the fourth time in 15 years that his house was damaged by floods. He said this one was the worst so far, and he expects more flooding in the future.

"There's no way we can live here. This will come back. We have to abandon (this place)," Gomes said.

Many of the victims died from electrical shock, or were trapped in vehicles, online news site G1 reported. One woman died as she was swept away during a rescue attempt.

Search and rescue teams have focused on the Taquari Valley, about 150 kilometers (30 miles) northwest of the state capital, Porto Alegre, where most of the victims and damage were recorded. But those efforts expanded farther west on Wednesday morning, with helicopters sent to the Rio Pardo Valley.

More heavy rains were expected to hit the state's center-south region, while possibly sparing worst-hit areas. Authorities maintained three flooding alerts on Wednesday—for the Jacui, Cai and Taquari rivers.

Rio Grande do Sul was hit by another cyclone in June, which killed 16 people and caused destruction in 40 cities, many of those around Porto Alegre.

Aid group official warns humanitarian crisis in Ukraine risks becoming 'normalized'

KYIV, Ukraine (AP)—A major aid group is concerned that there is not enough international attention given to Ukraine and is bracing for fewer donations used to finance operations in the battle-scarred country, its president warned on Tuesday.

The head of the International Rescue Committee, David Miliband said, his central concern is that the 19-month war and the resulting humanitarian crisis caused by Russia's invasion and continued attacks on civilian infrastructure are becoming "normalized" by the international community while the needs brought about by the war show no signs of diminishing, he said.

"We know that the 2022 figures for humanitarian aid in Ukraine are not going to be repeated," he told the Associated Press. Miliband said they don't expect the donations received from Europe and North America last year to be matched.

The IRC received $40 million in funding for Ukraine operations in 2022. In 2023, the aid group received almost less than half of that sum, with $27 million. Yet the needs have remained consistent, he said.

There are currently 18 million Ukrainians in humanitarian need, five million people internally displaced and six million refugees residing in other countries, Miliband said, adding that civilian deaths and the levels of internal displacement continue to be "high" and "record-breaking" respectively.

The coping mechanisms of Ukrainian citizens have been depleting after months of war. Many families, especially those living close to frontline areas with no means of support, are running out of savings to buy food and supplies. Mine contamination such as IEDs and unexploded ordinance is ruining the livelihoods of farmers and livestock owners. Constant shelling has terrorized civilians and continues to destroy countless homes.

"These are all the symptoms of a protracted crisis," he said, adding that a drawn-out war in Ukraine is an imminent danger.

Miliband said they expect the coming winter to be especially cold and fear a renewed Russian campaign to target civilian and energy infrastructure which last year kept many Ukrainians without power during the coldest months of the year.

Ukraine has since improved its air defense capabilities.

Miliband said donors — including countries in Europe, North America, and the oil-rich Gulf states—still express "very strong commitment to Ukraine" and " there is no retreat from the commitments" made, but there are needs that have to be met across the globe.

He added that particularly in Europe, international aid funds are being used to support Ukrainian refugees who have fled the country and resettled there. "That's a double whammy on some of the poorest people in the world who are beyond Ukraine but are affected by the crisis."

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

†Carlos H. Ebreo

Lovingly known as "†CHARLIE"
Was born on July 8, 1956 and went to his new home to meet our Lord on August 21, 2023.

In his life, †Charlie will be reunited with his:
Father: †Eugenio B. Ebreo
Mother: †Carmen H. Ebreo
Brother: †Felino H. Ebreo
Sister: †Ellen Ebreo-Castro

His memories will forever live in the hearts of his:
Daughter Charline S. Ebreo and her Mom Mageline Sacramento

Siblings and Family
Alex and Cora Ebreo (Maricel, Allan, Leo, Louie)
Alicia and Vir Abueme (Josh, Miguel)
†Ellen and John I. Castro (Jason, Jenny, Mike, Janice)
Sylvia and Art Salazar (Abby)
Cleo and Manny Sitchon (Ivan)
Doy and Marjorie Ebreo (Dominic, Philip, Sophia, Princess)
Ruel and Eloi Ebreo (Chivylle, Rafael)

He will be greatly missed by his numerous uncles, aunties, nieces, nephews, cousins, relatives and friends.

On Tuesday, September 12, 2023 at 7:30 a.m., Charlie will be escorted from Nuestra Senora Dela Paz to Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Responso Services and Rosary will commence upon arrival of remains. Last respects and public viewing will be held right after.

Mass celebrating his life will begin at 10:00 a.m. following the mass, they will bid a final farewell to Carlos "†Charlie" in an intimate setting.

Off The Wall

OFFBEAT BRIEFS

China authorities arrest 2 for smashing shortcut through Great Wall with excavator

China's Great Wall has been pierced by Genghis Khan, the Manchus, and now, allegedly, a couple of construction workers named Zheng and Wang who wanted a shortcut. Authorities in China arrested two people for smashing a path through a section of the ancient wall, a cultural icon and United Nations protected heritage site. The area of the breach was a broken-down section far from the restored segments most Chinese and foreign tourists are familiar with. The government of Youyu County, hundreds of kilometers (miles) west of Beijing showed a dirt road cut through a section of the wall against a rural landscape, along with the two suspects, identified as a 38-year-old man surnamed Zheng and a 55-year-old woman surnamed Wang. The pair wanted a shorter route for some construction work they were doing in nearby towns, the government report said. The section lies in Shanxi province at the western extreme of the wall, parts of which was constructed 2,000 years ago. It's relatively well preserved and holds "important preservation and research value," the local government said. The Youyu County government said the arrests were made after a report of the breach was received on August 24. It said the two suspects were in custody with further legal action pending. ***(AP)***

Riders in various states of undress cruise Philadelphia streets in 14th naked bike ride

PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Hundreds of people in various states of dress—or undress—set out Saturday for a ride through some of Philadelphia's main streets and sights for the 14th Philly Naked Bike Ride. The annual ride, which started in 2009, is billed as promoting cycling as a key form of transportation and fuel-conscious consumption. It is also meant to encourage body positivity. Organizers stress, however, that participants aren't required to ride completely in the buff, telling them to get "as bare as you dare." The course, roughly 13 miles (21 kilometers) this year, changes annually but generally passes city landmarks. This year, bikers went by the Philadelphia Museum of Art, site of the steps featured in the "Rocky" movies, the historic City Hall, tony Rittenhouse Square and the South Street entertainment area. The ride was to end at Independence Hall. Garry J. Gadikian, from Atlantic City, New Jersey, speaking in Fairmount Park at a pre-race get-together, said the ride was something he had wanted to do for years. "It's a very freeing experience, and definitely something that you should do once in your life for that freedom," he said before joining about 100 fellow participants who were having their bare flesh adorned with body paint and glitter. Christopher Jordan, who works in information technology in New York City, also joined the ride for the first time. He said he thought it was "more than just about taking the clothes off."

Police stop Nebraska man for bucking the law with bull riding shotgun in car

A car driving with a bull in it was pulled over by police in northeast Nebraska's biggest city. Don't worry, he didn't steer. Norfolk Police Capt. Chad Reiman said it didn't take long for officers to track down the modified Ford Crown Victoria sedan with a bull riding shotgun after a 911 call about it driving on the main highway entering the city of roughly 24,000 Wednesday morning. "We didn't have a full understanding of it until we saw it," Reiman said. The car that Lee Meyer has driven in parades across the area for years has half the windshield and roof removed to make room for his bull, named Howdy Doody, to ride along. A yellow metal cattle gate serves as the passenger side door—allowing for the Watusi bull to be tied up—and a set of longhorns serves as a hood ornament. "It wouldn't go far without being noticed for sure," Reiman said. A video of the traffic stop shot by News Channel Nebraska spread quickly online. A sign on the side of Meyer's car from a parade in Burwell late last month declared that Howdy Doody's eye-catching ride was judged the Best Car Entry in Nebraska's Big Rodeo Parade. Reiman said Meyer told him that when he went to that parade, he drove Howdy Doody in a proper trailer, so it wasn't clear why he decided to load the bull into his car Wednesday and drive the 36 miles from his home in Neligh to Norfolk. Reiman said Meyer wasn't headed to a parade Wednesday. Meyer didn't answer his home phone Thursday morning so he couldn't be reached immediately for an explanation. But his wife, Rhonda, told the Norfolk radio station that shot video of the traffic stop that Howdy Doody has been Meyer's "friend and buddy" ever since he got him eight or nine years ago.

Fish with a funny float gets a CT scan at the Denver Zoo

DENVER (AP)—A fancy-looking French angelfish that was found one day with a funny float has its buoyancy back after taking some time from its tropical trappings to get a CT scan at the Denver Zoo. A zoo worker recently noticed the blue and yellow fish was swimming with a tilt, prompting a visit last week to the facility's on-site hospital for an ultrasound and the CT scan.

The CT scan took place in a machine large enough to fit a 700-pound (318-kilogram) grizzly bear, so some special accommodations were required, zoo spokesperson Jake Kubie said. The approximately seven-inch (18-centimeter) fish was sedated, balanced upright on a sponge and had water poured over its gills to keep it alive as the scan took place. The diagnosis: Too much gas. Enteritis, or inflamed intestines, had resulted in increased internal gas that was affecting the fish's buoyancy, Kubie said. "It was treated with antibiotics," he said. "It's doing much better and swimming normally."

Revelers hurl tomatoes at each other in Spanish town's Tomatina party

BUÑOL, Spain (AP)—Some 15,000 people, including many tourists, pasted each other with tomatoes Wednesday as Spain's annual "Tomatina" street battle took place in the eastern town of Buñol. Workers on trucks tipped 120 tons of overripe tomatoes into the main street of the town for participants to throw. The street fight leaves both the street, its houses and participants drenched in red pulp. Tickets for the festival start at 12 euros ($13). The town hoses down the area and the revelers shower off within minutes of the hourlong noon battle finishing. The festival, held on the last Wednesday of August, was inspired by a food fight between local children in 1945 in the town, located in a tomato-producing region. Media attention in the 1980s turned it into a national and international event, drawing participants from every corner of the world. Participants use swimming goggles to protect their eyes and usually dress in T-shirts and shorts. The party is ranked by Spain as an international tourism attraction.

Science & Technology

Now's time to catch new comet before it vanishes for 400 years

AP

This image provided by Gianluca Masi shows the comet C/2023 P1 Nishimura and its tail seen from Manciano, Italy on Sept. 5, 2023.

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—A newly discovered comet is swinging through our cosmic neighborhood for the first time in more than 400 years.

Stargazers across the Northern Hemisphere should catch a glimpse as soon as possible—either this week or early next—because it will be another 400 years before the wandering ice ball returns.

The comet, which is kilometer-sized (1/2-mile), will sweep safely past Earth on Sept. 12, passing within 78 million miles (125 million kilometers).

Early risers should look toward the northeastern horizon about 1 1/2 hours before dawn — to be specific, less than 10 or so degrees above the horizon near the constellation Leo. The comet will brighten as it gets closer to the sun, but will drop lower in the sky, making it tricky to spot.

Although visible to the naked eye, the comet is extremely faint.

"So you really need a good pair of binoculars to pick it out and you also need to know where to look," said said Paul Chodas, manager of NASA's Center for Near-Earth Object Studies.

The comet will come closest to the sun—closer than Mercury is—on about Sept. 17 before departing the solar system. That's assuming it doesn't disintegrate when it buzzes the sun, though Chodas said "it's likely to survive its passage."

Italian astronomer Gianluca Masi, founder of the Virtual Telescope Project, said in an email that the next week represents "the last, feasible chances" to see the comet from the Northern Hemisphere before it's lost in the sun's glare.

"The comet looks amazing right now, with a long, highly structured tail, a joy to image with a telescope," he said.

Japan launches rocket carrying X-ray telescope to explore origins of universe, lunar lander

TOKYO (AP)—Japan launched a rocket Thursday carrying an X-ray telescope that will explore the origins of the universe as well as a small lunar lander.

The launch of the HII-A rocket from Tanegashima Space Center in southwestern Japan was shown on live video by the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, known as JAXA.

"We have a liftoff," the narrator at JAXA said as the rocket flew up in a burst of smoke then flew over the Pacific.

Thirteen minutes after the launch, the rocket put into orbit around Earth a satellite called the X-Ray Imaging and Spectroscopy Mission, or XRISM, which will measure the speed and makeup of what lies between galaxies.

That information helps in studying how celestial objects were formed, and hopefully can lead to solving the mystery of how the universe was created, JAXA says.

In cooperation with NASA, JAXA will look at the strength of light at different wavelengths, the temperature of things in space and their shapes and brightness.

David Alexander, director of the Rice Space Institute at Rice University, believes the mission is significant for delivering insight into the properties of hot plasma, or the superheated matter that makes up much of the universe.

Plasmas have the potential to be used in various ways, including healing wounds, making computer chips and cleaning the environment.

"Understanding the distribution of this hot plasma in space and time, as well as its dynamical motion, will shed light on diverse phenomena such as black holes, the evolution of chemical elements in the universe and the formation of galactic clusters," Alexander said.

Also aboard the latest Japanese rocket is the Smart Lander for Investigating Moon, or SLIM, a lightweight lunar lander. The Smart Lander won't make lunar orbit for three or four months after the launch and would likely attempt a landing early next year, according to the space agency.

JAXA is developing "pinpoint landing technology" to prepare for future lunar probes and landing on other planets. While landings now tend to be off by about 10 kilometers (6 miles) or more, the Smart Lander is designed to be more precise, within about 100 meters (330 feet) of the intended target, JAXA official Shinichiro Sakai told reporters ahead of the launch.

Life & Style

Mercury's prized piano, 'Bohemian Rhapsody' sold for more than $2M

LONDON (AP)—Freddie Mercury 's prized piano that he used to compose "Bohemian Rhapsody" and other hits by Queen sold for more than $2 million Wednesday as some of the late singer's massive collection of flamboyant stage costumes, fine art and original lyrics were auctioned in a sale that broke records.

Items connected to the operatic "Rhapsody," the band's most enduring hit, brought a premium with hand-written lyrics to the song selling for about 1.4 million pounds ($1.7 million) and a gold Cartier brooch saying "Queen number 1" given to each band member by their manager after the song topped the charts, selling for 165,000 pounds ($208,000).

AP

Freddie Mercury's signature crown worn throughout the 'Magic' Tour, on display at Sotheby's auction rooms in London, Thursday, Aug. 3, 2023.

A Victorian-style silver snake bangle Mercury wore with an ivory satin catsuit in a video for the song—long before the days of MTV—set a record for the highest price ever paid at auction for a piece of jewelry owned by a rock star, Sotheby's said.

The bracelet went for 698,500 pounds ($881,000)—100 times its estimated low price. The item broke a record set when John Lennon's leather and bead talisman sold for 295,000 pounds ($368,000) in 2008, Sotheby's said.

The eclectic collection of objects were amassed by Mercury after Queen's glam-rock produced an avalanche of hits that allowed the singer to achieve his dream of living a Victorian life "surrounded by exquisite clutter."

Mercury's close friend, Mary Austin, to whom he left his house and his possessions when he died of AIDS-related pneumonia in 1991 at 45, is selling it all—more than 1,400 items.

A mere 59 items of that "clutter" sold for 12.2 million pounds ($15.4 million), including a buyer's premium, that blew away estimates in the four-and-a-half hour auction. Bidders from 61 countries took part in person, online and by phone.

Mercury wrote, "Easy come, easy go, will you let me go?" in "Rhapsody," and the answer to the question from well-heeled fans seemed to be "No," as they bid fortunes—large and larger—to grab a piece of the late singer's clothing, awards and original hand-written drafts to classics such as "Killer Queen" and "We Are the Champions."

Depending how you looked at it, the champions of the night may have been Sotheby's or Austin or a few charities she's promised to donate an undisclosed portion of the proceeds to.

Or it could have been the buyers of one-of-a-kind memorabilia who won. One man raised his hands over his head in victory and hugged the woman seated next to him after bidding 635,000 pounds ($801,500) for the rhinestone-studded crown and red fake fur cloak Mercury wore on stage at the end of every show during Queen's last tour in 1986.

The auction opened with the sale of the graffiti-tagged door to the garden of Mercury's home that quickly blew past the high estimate of 25,000 pounds ($31,250) projected before the sale and led to a bidding war that lasted nearly 20 minutes.

'That '70s Show' actor could get decades in prison at sentencing for 2 rapes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"That '70s Show" star Danny Masterson could get as much as 30 years to life in prison at his sentencing Thursday for the rapes of two women two decades ago.

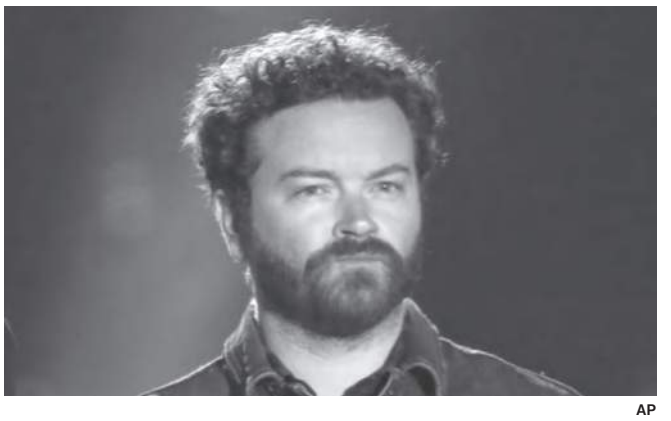
Los Angeles Superior Court Judge Charlaine F. Olmedo is set to sentence the 47-year-old actor after ruling on a defense motion for a new trial that she's very likely to reject, and after hearing impact statements from the victims.

A jury of seven women and five men found Masterson guilty of two counts on May 31 after seven days of deliberations. Both attacks took place in Masterson's Hollywood-area home in 2003, when he was at the height of his fame on the Fox network sitcom "That '70s Show."

The jury could not reach a unanimous verdict on a third count, an allegation that Masterson also raped a longtime girlfriend.

The verdict came in a second trial after a jury failed to reach verdicts on three counts of forcible rape in December and a mistrial was declared.

Prosecutors alleged that Masterson used his prominence in the Church of Scientology — where all three women were also members at the time — to avoid consequences for decades after the attacks.



AP

Danny Masterson appears at the CMT Music Awards in Nashville, Tenn., on June 7, 2017

The women blamed the church for their hesitancy in going to police about Masterson. They testified that when they reported him to Scientology officials, they were told they were not raped, were put through ethics programs themselves, and were warned against going to law enforcement to report a member of such high standing.

Springsteen postpones Sept. shows, citing doctor's advice regarding ulcer treatment

NEW YORK (AP)—The Boss is taking an unexpected breather and postponing his September shows, citing doctors' orders.

Bruce Springsteen announced on his website Wednesday that he was postponing shows for the remainder of the month while he is treated for symptoms of "peptic ulcer disease."

The disease causes ulcers to form in the stomach or small intestine that can cause heartburn, nausea and stomach pain.

The postponed shows including scheduled stops in Baltimore, Philadelphia, Albany and Syracuse in New York, Pittsburgh, Washington, and shows in Connecticut and Ohio.

"Over here on E Street, we're heartbroken to have to postpone these shows," Springsteen said in a statement posted on his site and social media. "We'll be back to pick up these shows and then some."

Springsteen, renowned for his high-energy, three-hour concerts with the E Street Band, recently performed three nights of shows in his home state of New Jersey.

Springsteen and the E Street Band's first tour in six years kicked off in Tampa, Florida, in February. He was forced to postpone shows planned for Albany, Connecticut and Columbus, Ohio, in March due to illness.

The rock legend turns 74 later this month.

Introvert wants to avoid planned outing with group

DEAR ABBY: I am in a group of friends who are mainly from the same country. We bond pretty well and occasionally spend time together. We mostly communicate by text in a chat group. Once in a while I get messages from them—mostly greetings or chats about general stuff, but nothing personal.

I'm an introvert, so I'm comfortable with the level of closeness we have right now. I don't crave deeper connections with them, and I'm happy with how things are. If I have the chance to get together, I do my best to see them for meals or other activities.

In a few weeks, there is a plan for us to do an outdoor activity that requires an overnight stay. I'm not excited about it. It makes me nervous to think about spending that much time with people who are not my family. I don't mind having lunch and chitchatting all afternoon, but being around them for more than 24 hours feels like too much to handle.

I tried hinting that I'm not interested by saying I don't have any equipment for the activity. Now there is pressure for me to go because they suggested I can use their equipment. I really don't know how to say I don't want to go without seeming like I'm antisocial. Please help!

PEER-PRESSURED

DEAR PEER-PRESSURED: Everybody is different. Not everyone is an extrovert and able to handle the stimulation of being around other people for an extended period of time.

IF you were to accept the invitation, would there be a way you might manage some alone time so you could recharge your batteries? If you could, it might solve your problem. However, if the answer to that question is no, be honest. Tell your friends the truth, that this is one excursion you will have to pass on and why.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My 12-year-old daughter has a girlfriend she's been "dating" for about eight months. They're not sexually active, and they only see each other socially a couple of weekend days every month, but they do FaceTime with each other every day. From what I can gather, they are also attached at the hip during school hours.

My concern is the length of this relationship. I remember when I was their age I had a crush on a different boy practically every week, and boyfriends didn't last long. Is it healthy for her to be in such a serious relationship? She's a very social person, has lots of friends and is active in sports. Part of me wishes they would break up so she can experience other relationships and not be tied down at such a young age. What do you think?

DEAR ABBY

By Abigail Van Buren
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

TWEEN'S MOM IN MASSACHUSETTS

DEAR MOM: I think that because your friendships ended after only a short time when you were your daughter's age does not mean that hers will (or should). Best friendships can last for years and even decades. Let your daughter mature at her own pace, and resist the urge to interfere.

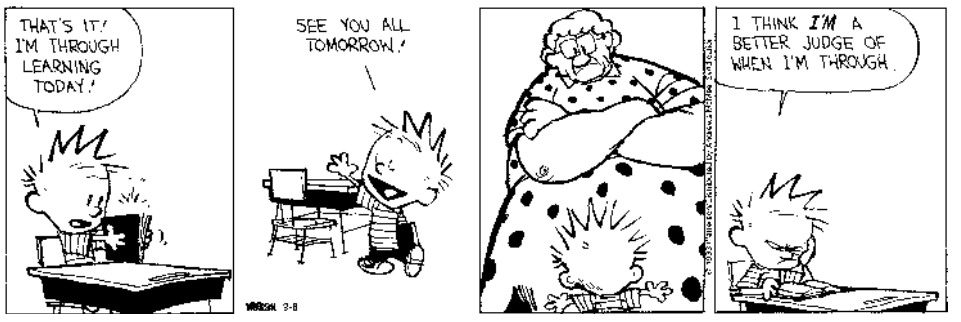
■ ■ ■

To receive a collection of Abby's most memorable – and most frequently requested – poems and essays, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Keepers Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

Pastimes

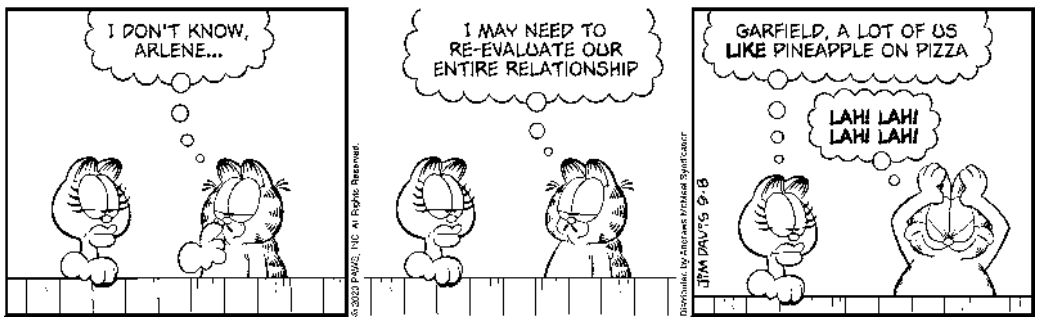
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson



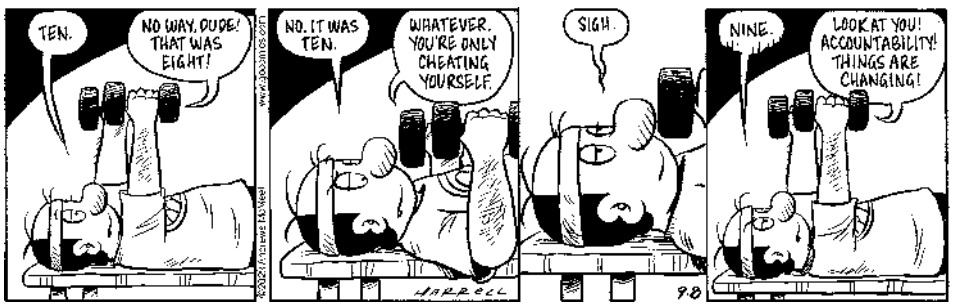
Garfield®

By Jim Davis


I DON'T KNOW, ARLENE...
I MAY NEED TO RE-EVALUATE OUR ENTIRE RELATIONSHIP
GARFIELD, A LOT OF US LIKE PINEAPPLE ON PIZZA
LAH! LAH! LAH! LAH!

Adam@home

By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 "Homeland" org.
4 Autumn
8 Transcript stats
12 Put on TV
13 "Amores" poet
14 Coffee vessels
15 Roman emperor
17 Emailed
18 Feedbag fill
19 Eyelid woes
20 Rich cake
22 Vasco de —
24 GPS suggestions
25 Pompeii volcano
29 — standstill
30 "Be quiet!"
31 Secret-protecting doc.
32 "Hamlet" role
34 Pack cargo
35 Till bills
36 Ethan and Joel of film
37 Lawman Earp
40 Blacken on a grill
41 Top-notch
42 Sign of winter
46 Color worker
47 Influence
48 Frequently
49 Scatters seeds
50 11th President
51 Sturgeon product

DOWN
1 Persian, for one
2 Jr.'s son
3 Tree-dwelling
4 Strong suit
5 Hertz rival
6 Lucy of "Kill Bill"
7 Mormon church, for short
8 Composer Mahler
9 Quarry
10 Actress Hathaway
11 Swift jets
16 Comestibles
19 Blue material?
20 Golf hazard
21 "Beetle Bailey" dog
22 Biological group
23 Unrepaired
25 Futile
26 Cabinet department
27 Japanese noodle
28 Tools with teeth
30 Tech news website
33 Cove critters
34 Fly like a hawk
36 Blackboard need
37 Bankrolls
38 Toy on a string
39 From the top
40 Select from a group
42 iPhone download
43 Status —
44 E.T.'s craft
45 Sault — Marie

Solution time: 25 mins.

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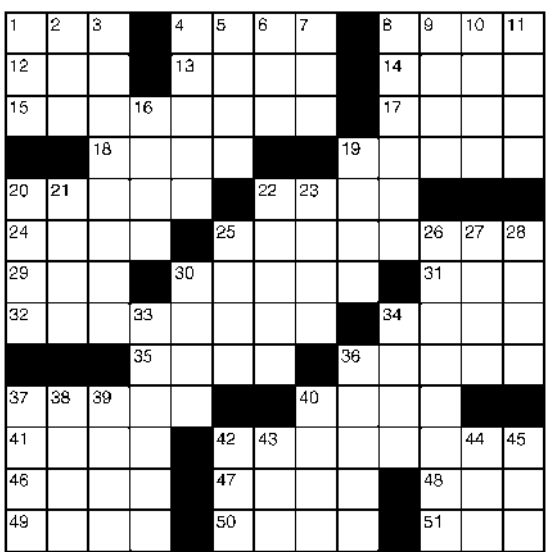
			A	H	A	M	C	M	E	N	T	S
R	I	C	K	I		I	O	S		E	E	K
A	S	H	E		A	N	S		C	R	A	Y
M	S	U		I	L	C		R	O	O	M	S
S	A	C	R	A	M	E	N	T	I	S		
		K	O	N	A		E	S	T	A	T	E
W	E	L	D		N	P	R		N	E	A	R
I	C	F	F		A	T	V		F	R	G	O
T	O	D	O		C	A	Y		R	O	S	S

Yesterday's answer 9-8



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Pink, 44; David Arquette, 52; Brooke Burke, 52; Neko Case, 53.

Happy Birthday: Target your goal and stay on track. Your dedication to making your dreams come true will prove fruitful through your will to do your best. Clear the passage forward by preparing your path behind closed doors. Secrecy will add to the element of surprise that will help you gain momentum, trust and the acceptance and rewards you desire. Shoot for the stars and enjoy the ride. Your numbers are 7, 15, 26, 29, 33, 38, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Keep an open mind, but jump right in. It's important not to make waves but to devise a plan that works for you. Your appeal is your ability to think and do for yourself. Turn up the volume and proceed with confidence. ✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Time spent rubbing shoulders with well-informed people will pay off. Listen to what others say and determine what options can be applied to your plans. Look at a challenge you face and turn an obstacle into an opportunity. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Slow down and do things right the first time. Refuse to let anyone disrupt your plans or confuse you with debatable information. Pay attention to your needs, health and financial prospects, and let others fend for themselves. ✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* You know what's right, but if you let your emotions take over, anger will set in and ruin a good thing. Show discipline when someone pushes emotional buttons. You'll be the one who comes out as a winner. Choose peace and love over chaos. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Present who you are and what you have to offer energetically. A positive attitude will capture attention and encourage others to join your team. Say no to temptation and avoid behavior that can obstruct what you are trying to achieve. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Enjoy the ride. The bigger the smile, the more success your actions will derive. Don't fear what others do or think; own your place in the spotlight and share what you have to offer. Don't let uncertainty or someone's opinion taint your plans. ✪✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Take a moment to appreciate what you have and to recognize what you can improve. Put yourself out there and let your actions be your voice. How you represent yourself and what you can do will make the difference regarding relationships and lifestyle. ✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Plug into something that interests you and follow through. Your connections will raise awareness and make you feel passionate about making a difference. Don't offer donations or let anyone part you from your cash. ✪✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Test your strength, agility and drive. Stand up for your rights and refuse to let anyone control your thoughts and feelings. Take the initiative, strive for perfection, pick up skills and focus on what makes you feel good about yourself. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Voice your opinion, find out who agrees, and work with what and who you have going for you. Anger is a waste of time and won't bring you closer to your goals. Put your energy where it counts and you'll make a difference. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Keep your eye on the ball, your feet on the ground and your heart in the game. Don't let trivialities stop you from doing what brings you joy. Surround yourself with people who make you laugh. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Look, see and do. You can accomplish what you set out to do if you act. Don't wait for someone to make the first move. Control the outcome of your actions. Let your uniqueness shine and your kindness and affection lead the way. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are unique, informative and passionate. You are organized and determined.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	3			6				8
		4		1				
8						9		
		7	8	4		2		
2								
	8	1			9	4	6	
6		3		2	4			
5		8	1					
			7	8			3	

Difficulty: ★★★★ 9/8

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

9	5	3	4	1	7	8	2	6
1	6	2	9	8	3	7	4	5
8	7	4	5	6	2	1	3	9
7	9	5	3	2	4	6	8	1
4	2	1	8	5	6	9	7	3
6	3	8	1	7	9	4	5	2
3	8	7	2	9	1	5	6	4
2	1	6	7	4	5	3	9	8
5	4	9	6	3	8	2	1	7

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Difficulty: ★★★ 9/3

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID QUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

MUSKY FISHING Solution: 8 letters

D	R	O	P	O	F	F	S	S	E	L	B	B	U	B
E	Y	E	S	I	G	H	T	H	T	E	E	T	I	U
P	H	N	P	R	E	D	A	T	O	R	S	T	G	C
T	M	O	W	S	H	O	R	E	O	E	E	L	L	K
H	U	I	O	A	P	O	G	O	V	E	I	R	O	T
E	S	T	V	K	D	R	D	R	R	D	T	E	V	A
X	K	U	A	D	A	T	A	U	E	W	U	L	E	I
O	E	A	L	L	U	H	T	N	E	R	O	E	S	L
B	L	C	L	O	I	A	S	A	G	S	R	A	H	S
E	L	W	E	C	R	C	H	P	D	L	T	S	T	G
L	U	O	Y	E	F	U	E	C	E	I	E	E	G	N
K	N	R	P	E	R	C	H	N	T	E	R	R	N	I
C	G	M	I	N	N	O	W	S	S	A	D	O	E	Y
A	E	S	P	A	W	N	P	I	K	E	C	L	L	L
T	R	I	V	E	R	E	T	A	W	H	S	E	R	F

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Angler, Bite, Bubbles, Bucktails, Catch, Caution, Cold, Dawn, Depth, Drop-offs, Eyesight, Florida, Flying, Freshwater, Glide, Gloves, Harvest, Hook, Lake, Large, Length, License, Minnows, Muskellunge, Nets, Outdoor, Perch, Pike, Predator, Release, River, Shore, Spawn, Speed, Tackle Box, Teeth, Temperature, Trout, Valley, Worms

Yesterday's Answer: Seasonal

The NEW **TELEWORD VINTAGE COLLECTION EDITION #1** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com. (In Canada, call 1-855-232-2367)

Germany holds off Latvia and will next play the USA

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Germany will play the United States in the semifinals of the Basketball World Cup, a rematch of an exhibition matchup from earlier this summer where the Americans needed a big rally to win.

Franz Wagner scored 16 points and Germany—the last unbeaten team left in the World Cup—held off Latvia 81-79 in a quarterfinal game on Wednesday, pulling away in the fourth quarter of what had been a back-and-forth matchup for the first 30 minutes.

Next up: The U.S. on Friday for a spot in Sunday's gold medal game. The U.S. beat Germany 99-91 on Aug. 20 in Abu Dhabi, rallying from a 16-point second-half deficit and needing an 18-0 run down the stretch to take control.

That game was a scrimmage, meaningless, the final tune-up before the World Cup. Friday's game will be very, very different.

"We set ourselves high goals and it's going to be a challenge," Germany's Johannes Thiemann said. "But with those goals in mind, we have to beat teams like the U.S. And hopefully we're able to do that."

Andreas Obst scored 13 for Germany (6-0), which survived on a night where Dennis Schroder was 4 for 26 from the floor and scored nine points.

Arturs Zagars scored 24 and Davis Bertans scored 20 for Latvia (4-2).

AP

Germany celebrates after defeating Latvia in their Basketball World Cup quarterfinal in Manila, Philippines, Wednesday, Sept. 6, 2023.

"All I want to say is that I'm extremely proud of this team, battling every single game," said Bertans, who took a deep 3-pointer for the lead with about 5 seconds left—then watched it hit the rim and bounce away.

With the win, Germany is assured of no worse than its second-best finish in basketball's top two international events—the World Cup and the Olympics. The Germans were third in the 2002 world championships, an event now called the World Cup, and have never placed better than seventh at an Olympics.

Latvia—which has been without the injured Kristaps Porzingis—can still finish as high as fifth in its first World Cup appearance. It'll play Italy in Thursday's consolation playoffs, then play for either fifth- or seventh-place on Saturday.

"They're the best team in Europe nobody talks about," Germany coach Gordie Herbert said of Latvia. "And they're missing a couple guys, too. They play great basketball, team basketball. They shoot it, well-coached, I give them a lot of credit."

The Americans rolled past Italy 100-63 in the quarterfinals on Tuesday. They took Wednesday off, using part of the day to visit the Manila American Cemetery and Memorial—even taking part in a brief ceremony to commemorate the thousands of World War II soldiers who are buried or memorialized there.

They'll resume practice Thursday, fully aware of the challenge Germany presented them with about three weeks ago.

"I just beat Latvia. Germany's in the semifinal of the World Cup," Germany's Moritz Wagner said. "Don't ask me about the USA. I'm going to enjoy this and then I'm going to think about the USA tomorrow."

CANADA 100, SLOVENIA 89

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Luka Doncic argued with the referees all night. And that's why he wasn't around in the final minutes, as Canada clinched a trip to the Basketball World Cup semifinals.

Shai Gilgeous-Alexander scored 31 points, RJ Barrett added 24 and Canada topped Slovenia 100-89 on Wednesday night. The win sends Canada into a semifinal matchup with Serbia on Friday.

"It's an honor," Gilgeous-Alexander said after Canada's first World Cup semifinal berth was clinched. "It's an honor in itself. But we're not satisfied."

Doncic had 26 points for Slovenia, but was ejected with 6:37 left after picking up his second technical of the game—both of them coming after he argued with referees over calls or non-calls. Slovenia was down by 15 at the time and wound up getting within nine shortly after Doncic departed, but it wasn't enough.

Doncic returned to the court, in flip-flops instead of sneakers, as time expired to congratulate Canadian players.

"Playing for the national team, it's a lot of emotions. A lot of times I don't control myself, which I've been having problems with," Doncic said. "But you know, the referees told one of the guys they're not going to call a foul on him because he's coming at us. I think this is not fair. I know I complained a lot, but I don't think it's fair. They've been playing very physical with me, but if you say that, it's not fair."

Canada—which saw Dillon Brooks ejected shortly before Doncic departed, also after a technical—will play Serbia in Friday's semifinals, with the U.S. and Germany set to meet in the other semifinal. The winners of those games will play for the World Cup on Sunday night.

Brooks met his teammates in the hallway by the locker room after the game, wearing boxing gloves and punching the air. Indeed, Canada has been a fighter so far at this World Cup. And Doncic—who lauded the way Brooks played—didn't have a chance to land a knockout blow.

"Guys like him, they can get hot. ... But we wore him down," Gilgeous-Alexander said.

Slovenia was bidding to make the World Cup semifinals for the first time since gaining its independence in 1991. Slovenia will play Lithuania on Thursday in the start of the consolation playoffs that will be used to determine fifth through eighth place.

The win was big for Canada, and big for Germany and Serbia. The top two finishers from Europe are guaranteed automatic berths into the Paris Olympics—and with Slovenia now assured of finishing no better than fifth, while Germany and Serbia cannot finish lower than fourth, it's those two nations who'll be heading to France next summer.

Slovenia still has a chance at the Olympics, but will have to win a qualifying tournament next July.

Canada won the silver medal at the 1936 Olympics—and in 22 trips to the Olympics or what's now called the World Cup since, it has not added to that medal collection. And no matter what happens the rest of the way in Manila, this will be Canada's best World Cup finish; it was sixth at the tournaments in 1978 and 1982.

The first half couldn't have been more even. It was 50-50 after 20 minutes—Canada won the first quarter 26-24, Slovenia won the second quarter 26-24, the biggest lead for each team in the half was exactly four points, and even the rebound total was tied 14-14 at the break. Back and forth they went, with 18 lead changes and six ties in those opening two quarters.

Canada changed everything with a 19-5 run to start the third quarter and kept the lead the rest of the way. It wound up shooting 33 free throws to Slovenia's 19.

"Congratulations to Canada," Doncic said. "They played great."

Alcaraz reaches semifinals and closes in on a second consecutive title

NEW YORK (AP)—Carlos Alcaraz found himself in a hint of a predicament 35 minutes into his U.S. Open quarterfinal against Alexander Zverev on Wednesday night.

At 3-all in the first set under the lights in Arthur Ashe Stadium, Zverev earned the first break points of the match. An opening. An opportunity to gain an early edge against the defending champion. And then—poof!—gone. Alcaraz dismissed those chances to hold, then gained a break himself in the next game by depositing an overhead that bounced into the stands. One more service hold arrived and, just like that, the set belonged to Alcaraz, as did, eventually, a spot in the semifinals.

The top-seeded Alcaraz pushed aside Zverev 6-3, 6-2, 6-4 and moved a step closer to becoming the first man to win consecutive titles at Flushing Meadows since Roger Federer collected five in a row from 2004-08.

"(If) I could have broken, it could have gone my way. It didn't," Zverev said about that key segment in the match's seventh game. "Even though I lost the first set, I thought it was going to be a competitive match. I thought my level was there. I thought his level was there. I thought it was going to be a fun one."

But the 12th-seeded Zverev, a 26-year-old German who was the runner-up at the 2020 U.S. Open, said he felt something bothersome in his left hamstring area early in the second set. And because of that, he explained, sprinting and pushing off properly to serve became problematic.

"I didn't give up," said Zverev, who left the court for a medical timeout before the third set, "but there is very little you can do, in a way, against Carlos then."

There have not been many instances in which anyone has managed to slow down Alcaraz, a 20-year-old from Spain, in any real way over the past year-plus of Grand Slam action.

He improved to 24-1 in his past four major tournaments: After the championship in New York 12 months ago, he sat out the Australian Open with a leg injury, made it to the semifinals of the French Open before cramping up in a loss to Novak Djokovic, and added the Wimbledon trophy by beating Djokovic in the final, before the run over these two weeks.

There could be an Alcaraz vs. Djokovic rematch in Sunday's final.

"Well, obviously it's closer than (it was at) the beginning of the tournament," Alcaraz said with a laugh when asked about that possibility.

"It would be great to play a final against Novak here in New York, but ... both of us have really tough semifinals, so let's see."

Yes, first things first. Alcaraz will take on 2021 U.S. Open champion Daniil Medvedev in the final four on Friday, while 23-time Slam champ Djokovic faces unseeded Ben Shelton, a 20-year-old American who's never been this far at a major.

On a sweltering evening, Alcaraz showed off several aspects of his varied game against Zverev.

The powerful forehands that elicit gasps from the crowd. The delicate drop shots. The hammered returns. The all-court speedy coverage. The willingness to try—and ability to succeed on—shots others wouldn't even consider.

"I try to make the people enjoy watching tennis, watching the matches," Alcaraz said during his on-court interview.

"I've been trying to do different shots that probably the crowd are not used to seeing in the matches. ... That's what I'm trying—to put a show on," said Alcaraz, who is 58-6 with six titles in 2023, both tour highs.

There's also a sense of the moment, knowing when there are points, or games, he absolutely needs to have. On Wednesday, he saved all five break points he faced and converted each of the four he earned in Zverev's service games.

Registration now open for 2023 Saipan Marathon

Online registration is now open for the 2023 Saipan Marathon at raceroster.com for the 16th Annual Saipan Marathon on March 9, 2024.

The Marianas Visitors Authority has announced that the race will again be a certified measured course by World Athletics in cooperation with AIMS (Association of International Marathons and Distance Races). The event is co-organized by Northern Marianas Athletics (NMA) and is sanctioned under the Northern Marianas Athletics rules and regulations."

"We are a 'go' for Saipan Marathon 2024, and we are excited to be opening registration earlier than ever before," said MVA managing director Christopher A. Concepcion. "We are also working collaboratively with World Athletics to have the course fully certified in the next few months. We look forward to welcoming runners from around the world next March."

Early bird registration through Dec. 31, 2023, is $90 for the full marathon, $60 for the half marathon, and $60 for the 10K and 5K. Full marathon participants must be age 18 or older. Half marathon participants must be age 14 or older. With valid photo ID, students ages 18 or younger by Dec. 31, 2023, may register for 10K or 5K for $40 through Dec. 31, 2023. Fees increase incrementally beginning on Jan. 1, 2024, and again on Feb. 1, 2024. The deadline to register is 5pm ChST on March 7, 2024.

Cash prizes will be awarded for top finishers and by age division. Participants will receive a Limited Edition Official Saipan Marathon T-shirt, official Saipan Marathon medal, Certificate of Completion, and one entry to the awards banquet, also on March 9.

Saipan Marathon follows some of Saipan's most scenic roadways, providing stunning views of the azure blue lagoon and lush mountains of the island. The course begins and ends at American Memorial Park in Garapan, and a half-way cut off point will be implemented.

Last held in March 2022 with 327 registrants, the MVA will be working to gradually exceed its 1,000+ marathon registrants realized before the pandemic, Concepcion added.

For more information, visit https://raceroster.com/events/2024/78587/saipan-marathon-2024 or www.mymarianas.com or contact MVA Community Projects Coordinator Ed Diaz at 1.670.664.3210 or ediaz@mymarianas.com. ***(PR)***

MVA

The 16th Annual Saipan Marathon will be held on March 9, 2024, in The Marianas as a certified course of World Athletics in cooperation with the Association of International Marathons and Distance Races. The race is an annual signature event of the Marianas Visitors Authority, and registration is now open at raceroster.com.

SWIMMERS

From page 24

time for my event. It is an amazing experience being able to race all the other swimmers, this experience is very rare and it will be my treasure. For my next races I hope I can beat my personal best times and hopefully be close to the national records," said Akimaru on Wednesday.

For Thompson, she broke her PB in the 100m freestyle with a time of 1:08.52 for sixth in Heat 2. Her previous PB was 1:09.45.

She also recorded a new PB in the 50m butterfly with a time of 34.59 seconds for sixth in Heat 1—shaving off almost one whole second from her previous PB of 35.47 seconds.

She also recorded 40.10 seconds in the 50m breaststroke and 1:08.52 in the 100m Freestyle.

Thompson is swimming in the 50m freestyle today.

On her performance so far, she said in an interview Wednesday, "My experiences have been great. All of the times I have made so far have been personal bests. For my next races I am looking forward to giving it everything I have as it is my last race. I hope that I can make myself, my family, my team, and the CNMI proud."

For Pajarillaga, this is his first international competition and recorde a time of 1:02.94 in the 100m backstroke—which was good for 4th overall in Heat 1.

In the 50m backstroke, he claimed second place in Heat 1 with a time of 28.67.

He is competing in the 100m freestyle today and 200m backstroke tomorrow.

Pajarillaga said of his first event on Monday, "My first event was okay. I wish I would have done better." He did not have a personal best officially registered because it was his first international competition and the Saipan pool is not a 50m, so he said he doesn't have an official time for those strokes—but that his experience so far has been great.

CNMI national head coach Richard Sikkel said yesterday about the swimmers' performance, "After seven swims between the three swimmers, all seven swims were personal bests, so I am happy with their performance. They are focused and have been very diligent with putting in the practice."

Sikkel added, "There is a lot of pressure to perform well, especially in the first race. After the first race you can see the swimmers relax a little and rely on their training."

He then said, "Kean, Taiyo, and Jinie are competing against the top junior swimmers in the world. While they are happy with their performance so far, they are always looking to improve and this competition will give them invaluable experience to tap into for future races."

Sikkel said that coach Hiroyuki Kimura and assistant coach Christian Villacrusis did a great job preparing the swimmers for the competition.

JUHN

From page 24

future training plans."

Tsunami Saipan Swimming Center coach Hiroyuki Kimura sympathizes with his former ward's plight.

"He wasn't able to update his PB at the intercollege meet this time, but I believe that being able to participate in this meet with freshmen was a very useful experience for his future swimming competitor life."

Kimura said he admires Tenorio for balancing his studies and varsity swimming.

"It is really hard to go on to university and continue to be a competitor. Moreover, Juhn's team is a strong team that ranks in the Top 8 in Division 1 Japan (women is Top 4)," he said.

The CNMI national coach in last month's 20th FINA World Championships in Fukuoka, Japan said Tenorio could've taken the easier route by enrolling at a university with a less competitive swimming team. However, he said the many-time CNMI national swimmers wanted to be among the best.

"To be a freshman starting lineup on that team is so amazing. Additionally, his university is one of the most prestigious in Japan. Studying is also quite hard. Only a limited number of swimmers can participate in the Japan Intercollege Championships," he said.

Kimura added that qualifying time for the prestigious meet must be cut first and swimmers must be in the Top 3 of each event of their team.

"Even if you are No.1 in your team, you cannot participate if you do not cut the qualifying time. Even if you cut the time, you will not be able to participate in the Top 4 of your team. It's such a narrow gate."

Kimura also sees Tenorio's stint with the Hosei University Swimming Team ultimately benefitting the CNMI in this year's Pacific Games in Honiara, Solomon Islands.

"Juhn will be joining the Pacific Games as a CNMI representative for swimming. With his PB, he will definitely be in the finals, but our goal is to be on the podium. The reason why I invited Juhn to the Honiara is because his power will be absolutely necessary to make it to the finals of the relay, and the CNMI team needs his captaincy, which he learned from the university team. Everyone, please look forward to seeing the CNMI Swimming National Team at the Pacific Games."

INCREDIBLY

From page 24

She said that she took away some important takeaways from each presenter in the program. Pangilinan said she witnessed a para-badminton player on a wheelchair for the first time. She said about that experience, "Amazingly, if you put your mind to it, anything is still feasible despite a limitation."

But the one thing that caught her attention the most was by Kenneth Lersen, in "A New Approach to Coaching" and Ra Kyung Min, "Demonstrating Mixed Doubles."

She said for Lersen's session, the important takeaway was "A player is solely responsible for their own actions during rallies, and must analyze what went wrong and what to do in those similar situations in the future. Thus, mistakes are a fuel for learning."

In Min's demonstration, Pangilinan said the takeaways were "On court play of the top importance of mixed doubles; the roles of women in mixed doubles, service and return of service, and offensive and defensive strokes used in a mixed doubles game."

When asked how she will use the skills she learned to develop the Northern Marianas Badminton Association and the youth and her own skills, Pangilinan said that for the youth, "As a coach, it will make it easier for me to comprehend that we can't always point out the errors that our younger players make. They must identify their mistakes and understand how to correct themselves going forward."

For her development, she said "The abilities Ms. Min demonstrated as a mixed doubles player will enable me to comprehend my part in mixed doubles better. I'm hoping that everything I've learnt will help me and my partner advance when we resume training."

Being in the international program with other players and coaches, Pangilinan said that it was incredibly motivating as many of the female coaches have advanced in badminton; some are top players in their country before deciding to coach, and some even established their own academy to encourage more young people to improve their badminton abilities.

She added that in the Coaching Conference, there were not only badminton coaches but coaches of other sports, such as soccer and rugby. "It's their journey and findings that made them inspiring people," said Pangilinan.

As for what the NMBA director thinks of the future of badminton in the CNMI, she said "I do anticipate that badminton will continue to rise, along with the number of young players. Numerous young people have recently shown interest in and potential for playing badminton as a result of our recent involvement in the Interscholastic program. I do anticipate that badminton in the CNMI will move from recreational play to competitive play within the next five years."

The 24-year-old administrative officer at the Oleai Sports Complex then said that her future plans for badminton are to initiate after-school activities for children who wish to learn how to play badminton.

With 13 years of badminton experience under her belt, she said many parents have asked her to coach their children, and when she has the program up and running, she will gladly do so.

As for future competitions, she said she would like to compete in the Oceania Badminton Championships annually, or at the absolute least every two years while the U19 competition is taking place.

Aimeliik Bat Boys on a roll in BASA open

By LEIGH GASES
leigh_gases@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Aimeliik Bat Boys ruled Kebruka, 13-5, for their eighth win in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the Dan Dan Softball Field.

Down by three at the bottom of the third inning, the Bat Boys came clamoring around the bases and tied up the game, 4-4, with a three-run shot by Henry Fleming.

The runs didn't stop there as Fleming said it wasn't enough for him and hit a big grand slam in the next inning. Two more runs came in and the Bat Boys were way on top, 10-4, in no time.

Kebruka couldn't handle the heat and had a quick meltdown as they scored only one more run in the fifth inning. The Bat Boys, on the other hand, scored three more runs thanks to Harry Nakamura's home runs and a two-RBI home run by Marwin Leemarvin in the last inning.

Bat Boys pitcher Luis Iguel pitched five scoreless innings and was rightfully backed up by his offense to secure the W.

Ready Mix 16, Team Mac 15

Ready Mix won, 16-15, via a go-ahead, solo home run at the bottom of the last inning by Travis Malwelbug.

Tied at 15-15 by the last inning, Team Mac had hoped their seven-run last ditch effort would hold and would force extra innings, but Ready Mix was ready to end the game right there.

Team Mac was down 8-15 until their rally in their last-bat and they should've added more runs as one swing of the bat by Malwelbug stole the win from them.

Mamaaw 22, No Choice 2

Mamaaw pummeled No Choice, 22-2.

It was a no-choice defeat as No Choice couldn't get their bats started. Eddie Demei was the only one who scored both runs from a home run. Meanwhile, Mamaaw punished No Choice pitcher Jeff Isaac with multiple runs throughout the game.

Three came in the first inning from a three-RBI home run by Ze Lifoifoi, then three more in the second inning. Two more came in the third, plus four in the fourth. The game was blown wide open in the fifth inning with eight runs scored thanks to back-to-back-to-back home runs by Ze Lifoifoi, Benen Iguel, J.J. Teigita, and Rich Quitugua.

LEIGH GASES

Aimeliik Bat Boys' Marwin Leemarvins sends the ball flying over the fence during their 13-5 win against Kebruka in the 2023 Budweiser Belau Amateur Softball Association Slow Pitch Open League last Sunday at the Dan Dan Softball Field.

IT&E renews Interscholastic Basketball League sponsorship

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

IT&E has renewed its sponsorship for the CNMI Public School System's 2023-2024 Interscholastic Basketball League with a pledge of $10,000 on Wednesday.

IT&E said in a press release yesterday that it is keeping its commitment to the interscholastic basketball program after agreeing anew to be the title sponsor of the 2023-2024 season of the interscholastic league co-organized by the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation and the CNMI PSS.

This is IT&E's third year of sponsorship and as the exclusive corporate sponsor, IT&E has pledged $10,000 to the league, which aligns with IT&E's commitment to inspire, educate, and empower the youth.

"We are thrilled to support the interscholastic basketball league once more. In partnership with the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation and the CNMI Public School System, our aim is to create a positive impact on our young athletes and encourage them to aspire to greatness on and off the court," said IT&E CNMI executive director Velma Palacios.

NMIBF president James Lee, for his part, said NMIBF is excited and grateful for IT&E's sponsorship.

"With the 2023-2024 school year starting and interscholastic kicking off just right around the corner, NMIBF is excited and grateful to announce that IT&E is once again coming back in full support as the sponsor for the Interscholastic Basketball League."

The league is set to kick-off on Wednesday, Sept. 13, with the IT&E Interscholastic Boys Middle School Basketball League 2023-2024.

Lee extends his thanks to IT&E and PSS.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Rob Harrell, IT&E executive director-Customer Operations, Marketing, Network Operations Center; Annie La Fleur, FIBA Oceania Sport Development manager; Velma Palacios, IT&E executive director-CNMI; Marlene Lumabi, Business Account manager at IT&E and board director of the Northern Mariana Islands Basketball Federation; and James Lee, president of NMIBF, pose for a group photo Wednesday afternoon during IT&E's sponsorship renewal of the CNMI Public School System's Interscholastic Basketball League.

2nd TTT Mix Class Fishing Tourney tomorrow

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The Tasi To Table Inc. is hosting its 2nd Annual Mix Classic Fishing Tournament tomorrow, Sept. 9.

The tournament is from 6am to 5pm at the Smiling Cove Marina. Registration starts today from 4pm to 6pm also at the Marina.

According to TTT, the purpose of the event is to maximize fishing tournaments for the CNMI where anglers compete for prizes offered.

Proceeds from the tournament benefit the 501(c)3 nonprofit corporation of TTT Inc. to support its continued mission for the youth programs spearheaded by TTT Inc. with the CNMI Public School System.

The TTT Mix Classic Fishing Tournament is a new tournament focusing on targeted pelagic fish species. However, in order to qualify your catch, submitting captain/anglers catch must include a combination of the qualifying pelagic species.

The qualifying pelagic species are as follows: billfish, yellowfin tuna, wahoo, mahi mahi, and skipjack tuna.

The combined weight of the two different pelagic species (ex: billfish and wahoo, yellowfin tuna and skipjack tuna…) selected by the team in competition is their weight category to determine the winner. Two of the same species do not qualify.

The prizes for first place is a whopping $3,000; second place is $2,000; third place is $1,000; fourth place is $750; and fifth place is $500.

Gene Weaver, president of Tasi To Table, said "This derby—and Tasi To Table as a whole—is all about our community and the kids. We're looking forward to seeing everyone come out, catch some good fish, and support TTT and our students. We're very excited to host the TTT Mix Classic for another year, and best of luck to all the fishermen that will enter the derby!"

Sponsors of the event are IT&E, IP&E, Bud Light, Fishing Tackle & Sporting Goods, and Marianas Visitors Authority.

Saipan CNMI 670 relegated to battle for third

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

Saipan CNMI 670 lost in the semifinals of the 2023 Net Rippers Basketball League last Aug. 26 at the Lakewood Community Center in Lakewood, Washington.

The team made up of former CNMI residents bowed to Parkland Faith Fighters, 75-46. The latter was led by the 17 points of Shandon Aure, the 14 points of Jericho David, and the 10 points apiece of Kurt Gonzales and Brian Fangonilo.

Saipan CNMI 670 was paced by the 14 points of Jay Beltran and the 13 points of Jaymark De Guzman in the humbling loss.

Team coach Adrian De Luna blamed the loss to their failure to prepare against Parkland Faith Fighters' high-octane offense and suffocating defense.

"During the semifinal game, I just think we weren't prepared at all. As a coach I should have done my part better. I ask for 2-3 defense at the beginning of the game and it did not go well. I called it late to switch to man-to-man and when we were able to figure out our defense, Parkland Faith Fighters was prepared and ready. They were the better team."

De Luna, who played for Team Rollers, Places, and Division of Youth Services on Saipan, said they will try again to win one for their home islands in this weekend's third place match.

"In the third-place game my plan is to win it all and at least have that award and make everyone proud out there. Having third place is still a huge achievement."

Aside from Beltran and De Guzman, Saipan CNMI 670 is also made up of Ehroll Peredo, Melvin Deocares, Juanis King, and Herbert Maranan. They upset No. 2 seed Seattle The Bro in the first round of the playoffs last month to make it to the semifinals.

Saipan CNMI 670 finished the regular season with a dismal 4-5 win-loss record, while their victims in the quarterfinals, Seattle The Bros, only had two losses in nine games.

The other semifinal pairing in the 2023 Net Rippers Basketball League had No. 1 Bremerton Destroyers (7-1) beat Lakewood JBLM (4-6).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Saipan CNMI 670 players pose for a team shot prior to one of their games in the 2023 Net Rippers Basketball League in Lakewood, Washington.

Germany holds off Latvia and will next play the USA .

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Aimeliik Bat Boys on a roll in BASA open.

PAGE 23

Swimmers break PBs in FINA Junior Champs

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI national junior swimming team from left, Taiyo Akimaru, Jinie Thompson, and Kean Pajarillaga broke their personal bests in the 9th FINA Junior World Championships in Netanya, Israel.

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The CNMI national junior swimming team composed of Taiyo Akimaru, Kean Pajarillaga, and Jinie Thompson have broken their personal bests in the 9th FINA Junior World Championships in Netanya, Israel.

The trio of 17-year-olds have all had a dip into the first days of competition that began last Sept. 4 and will end Sept. 9.

Akimaru broke his personal best in Heat 1 of the 100m butterfly with a time of 1:00.95, which was good for third in the heat overall. His previous PB was 1.02.70.

In the 50m freestyle, he was in Heat 1 again and clocked in at 25.69 seconds for third place in the heat. His previous PB was 26.02 seconds.

He is swimming in the 100m freestyle today.

"My race was good! I was able to beat my personal best

See SWIMMERS on Page 22

'Incredibly motivational' experience at badminton coach mentorship program

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

NMI National Badminton player Janelle Pangilinan said that her time at the Badminton World Federation Coach Mentorship Program in Copenhagen, Denmark from last Aug. 23 to 25 was "incredibly motivational'"

Under the BWF program, Pangilinan attended a Coaching and Sports Science Education session, a BWF World Coaching Conference, and observed games in the TotalEnergies BWF World Championships 2023 for a match analysis.

See INCREDIBLY on Page 22

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
NMI National Badminton Team player, Janelle Pangilinan, front row, third from left, is seen with participants of the Badminton World Federation Coach Mentorship Program in Copenhagen, Denmark from last Aug. 23 to 25.

Juhn makes collegiate debut

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSOCIATE EDITOR

CNMI national swimmer Juhn Tenorio made his debut with the Hosei University Swimming Team in the 2023 Japan Intercollege Championships last week.

Although he wasn't able to churn in personal best times in his events, the Marianas High School alumnus is taking everything in stride.

"It's been great! I've been training here for little bit under six months but it's tough but worth it. Unfortunately, I wasn't able to mark my own PB this meet but I'm confident I will be back stronger next season," said the 18-year-old.

Being a freshman in college and living away from home in his mother's country of birth, Tenorio said he's just trying his best in an unfamiliar situation.

"It's different from my club back home because you have to have the power to train on what you want but it is also a risk because if you don't do it right you will mess up your performance. I'm still learning more about myself so I can use the information on

See JUHN on Page 22

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
CNMI national swimmer Juhn Tenorio is about to swim in his event for Hosei University Swimming Team in last week's 2023 Japan Intercollege Championships.